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Today's Catch



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Trump visits troops in Afghanistan, says Taliban want deal

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AP) — President Donald Trump paid a surprise Thanksgiving visit to Afghanistan, where he announced the U.S. and Taliban have been engaged in ongoing peace talks and said he believes the Taliban want a cease-fire. In his first trip to the site of America's longest war, Trump arrived at Bagram Air Field shortly after 8:30

p.m. local time Thursday and spent 3½ hours on the ground, serving turkey, thanking the troops and sitting down with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani before leaving just after midnight.

As per tradition, reporters were under strict instructions to keep the trip a secret to ensure the president's safety in the country.

Continued on Next Page



President Donald Trump holds up a tray of Thanksgiving dinner during a surprise Thanksgiving Day visit to the troops, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

About 12,000 U.S. forces remain in Afghanistan. Traveling with Republican Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming and a small clutch of aides, including his acting chief of staff, press secretary and national security adviser, Trump appeared in good spirits as he was escorted around the base by heavily armed soldiers, as the smell of burning fuel and garbage wafted through the chilly air. Unlike last year's post-Christmas visit to Iraq, first lady Melania Trump did not make the trip.

Trump's first stop was a dining hall, where he plated turkey and sat down for a meal. But he said he only tasted the mashed potatoes before he was pulled away for photos.

"I never got the turkey," he told the troops. "A gorgeous piece of turkey."

During his visit, Trump said the U.S. and Taliban have been engaged in peace talks and insisted the Taliban want to make a deal after heavy U.S. fire in recent months.

"We're meeting with them," he said. "And we're saying it has to be a cease-fire. And they don't want to do

a cease-fire, but now they do want to do a cease-fire, I believe ... and we'll see what happens."

The trip came after Trump abruptly broke off peace talks with the Taliban in September, canceling a secret meeting with Taliban and Afghan leaders at the Camp David presidential retreat after a particularly deadly spate of violence, capped by a bombing in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

That ended a nearly year-long effort by the U.S. to reach a political settlement with the Taliban, the group that protected al-Qaida extremists in Afghanistan, prompting U.S. military action after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. U.S. and international forces have been on the ground ever since.

It was not immediately clear how long or substantive the U.S. reengagement with the Taliban has been. Trump ran his 2016 campaign promising to end the nation's "endless wars" and has been pushing to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and in the Middle East despite protests from top U.S. officials. Trump's Re-



President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani during a surprise Thanksgiving Day visit, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

Associated Press

publican allies in Washington and many U.S. allies abroad. For months now, he has described American forces as "policemen" and argued that other countries' wars should be theirs to wage.

Tens of thousands of Afghan civilians and more than 2,400 American service members have been killed since the war began 18 years ago.

Just last week, Trump flew to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to oversee the transfer of the remains of two Army officers killed when their helicopter crashed as they provided security for troops on the ground in Logar province in eastern Afghanistan. The Taliban still controls or holds sway over about half of the country, staging near daily attacks targeting Afghan forces and government officials.

The U.S. and Taliban had been close to an agreement in September that might have enabled a U.S. troop withdrawal. Trump said he was proceeding with a plan to reduce U.S. troop levels to about 8,600, telling reporters we're "bringing down the number of troops substantially."

Still, he said, the U.S. will stay in the country "until we have a deal or we have total victory." Trump also met briefly with Ghani, the Afghan president. Ghani thanked

the Americans who have made the "ultimate sacrifice" in Afghanistan and assured the president that Afghan security forces are increasingly leading the fight.

"In the next three months, it's going to be all Afghanistan!" Ghani said.

Ghani also praised Trump for the October mission that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The Afghan leader also seemed to suggest, as Trump himself has, that the al-Baghdadi mission was even more significant than the 2011 mission targeting al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden. The bin Laden mission was ordered by then-President Barack Obama.

"President Trump, people talk a lot about bin Laden. But what you did to eliminate al-Baghdadi ..." said Ghani, in remarks before U.S. troops ahead of Trump's departure.

The White House took pains to keep the trip a secret after Trump's cover was blown last year when Air Force One was spotted en route to Iraq by an amateur British flight watcher.

Cellphones and other transmitting devices were confiscated for the duration of the trip from everyone traveling aboard Air Force One. And Thanksgiving-themed tweets were teed up to publish ahead of time from Trump's account to prevent suspicions arising about the

president's silence. A small group of reporters was told to meet Wednesday night on the top floor of a parking garage and was transported in black vans to Andrews Air Force Base. Meanwhile, the president was secretly flying back from Florida, where reporters had been told he'd be spending Thanksgiving at his Mar-a-Lago club.

The plane he'd flown to Florida — the modified 747 painted in the iconic white and blue of Air Force One — remained parked on the tarmac at West Palm Beach Airport to avoid revealing the president's movement. About 9:45 p.m. Wednesday, the president boarded a nearly identical plane concealed in a hangar at Andrews Air Force Base, taking off and landing under the cover of darkness, with cabin lights dimmed and window shutters drawn.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said plans for the visit had been in the works for weeks.

"It's a dangerous area and he wants to support the troops," Grisham told reporters before Trump landed. "He and Mrs. Trump recognize that there's a lot of people who are away from their families during the holidays, and we thought it'd be a nice surprise."

Shortly after midnight, Trump and his entourage departed from Afghanistan. □

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Wynn Resorts settles with pension funds over sex allegations

By SCOTT SONNER and MARINA VILLENEUVE
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Wynn Resorts agreed Wednesday to accept \$41 million from former CEO and chairman Steve Wynn and insurance carriers as part of a settlement stemming from shareholder lawsuits accusing company directors of failing to disclose the casino mogul's alleged pattern of sexual misconduct.

Neither the company nor its current or former directors or officers were found to have committed any wrongdoing in connection with the pending settlement involving multiple public pension funds, the company said in a statement late Wednesday. The deal is subject to approval of a judge in Las Vegas.

Wynn would pay \$20 million in damages while another \$21 million will come from insurance carriers on

behalf of current and former employees of Wynn Resorts, the company said. Wynn has denied all allegations of misconduct. He resigned from the casino company in February 2018. Wynn Resorts said the settlement reached Wednesday afternoon credits the company with \$49 million for changes made since then, including new policies to protect workers and realignment of the board of directors with eight independent members, including four women.

Multiple shareholder lawsuits — consolidated into a single case in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas — were filed in 2018 on behalf of the New York public pension fund and municipal workers and others elsewhere over their investments in Wynn Resorts.

They alleged some officers and directors knew the company's founder and chairman made unwanted

sexual advances on employees and pressured them to perform sex acts, but did not disclose the alleged pattern of sexual misconduct.

In addition to The New York State Common Retirement Fund, other plaintiffs included an operating engineers' construction pension fund in Pennsylvania and municipal firefighters in California. "We filed our lawsuit in response to serious and repeated allegations of sexual misconduct by Steve Wynn and the prior board's alleged failure to stop it," said New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who is in charge of that state's \$209 billion retirement fund. He said it holds shares in Wynn Resorts with an estimated value of \$23 million.

"We are gratified that the reforms in this agreement and those undertaken following the initiation of our lawsuit will protect Wynn resorts employees and



In this March 15, 2018 file photo, casino mogul Steve Wynn is seen during a news conference in Medford, Mass.

Associated Press

shareholders against future harm," he said Wednesday. Wynn Resorts owns and operates Wynn Las Vegas, En-

core Boston Harbor in Massachusetts, Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, Cotai in Macau. □

Fired Navy Secretary Spencer criticizes Trump in SEAL case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard Spencer, who was fired as Navy secretary for his handling of a SEAL war crimes case championed by President Donald Trump, wrote that the commander in chief "has very little understanding" of how the American military works. The extraordinary accusation came in an opinion piece published on The Washington Post's website Wednesday evening, three days after he was fired. Spencer called Trump's intervention in the case of Navy Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher "shocking" and unprecedented. Spencer was fired Sunday by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for working a private deal with the White House to ensure that Gallagher be allowed to retire without losing his SEAL status.

In his Post article, Spencer acknowledged his mistake but also asserted that Trump's actions were detrimental to the military. Spencer said Trump had involved himself in the Gallagher case "almost from the start," by telephoning Spencer even before the SEAL's court martial started to ask that Gallagher be moved out of confinement at a Navy brig. Spencer said he resisted Trump because the presiding judge had decided that confinement was important. Nonetheless,



In this July 27, 2019, file photo, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer talks with the media following a commissioning ceremony for the U.S. Navy's guided missile destroyer, the USS Paul Ignatius, at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

Trump ordered Spencer to transfer Gallagher from the brig to the equivalent of an enlisted barracks. Spencer said he believes Trump's interest in the case stemmed partly from the way Gallagher's defense lawyers and others "worked

to keep it front and center in the media."

After Gallagher was acquitted of most charges but convicted of posing with the corpse of an Islamic State extremist in Iraq, he submitted his request to retire. In Spencer's telling, that raised three questions for the Navy, including whether Gallagher should be allowed to retire at his current rank. The military jury had said he should be demoted.

Trump, who had tweeted support for Gallagher and stated that his case had been "handled very badly from the beginning," short-circuited the Navy's administrative review of Gallagher's status by ordering Spencer to restore Gallagher's rank.

"This was a shocking and unprecedented intervention in a low-level review," Spencer wrote. "It was also a reminder that the president has very little understanding of what it means to be in the military, to fight ethically or to be governed by a uniform set of rules and practices."

Spencer's scathing commentary echoes the thrust of an opinion piece published two days earlier by two of his predecessors, Richard Danzig and Sean O'Keefe.

Danzig, who led the Navy under President Bill Clinton, and O'Keefe, his predecessor in the administration of President George H.W. Bush, wrote in The New York Times that Trump has politicized the military to its detriment.

"His values are not those of our military," they wrote. Last week, Trump tweeted that Gallagher must be allowed to keep his Trident pin, the medal that designates a SEAL member. The Navy had planned to let an administrative board review the question starting Monday, but eventually Esper decided to stop that process and let Gallagher retire as a SEAL, as Trump had ordered.

Earlier Wednesday, the Navy announced that it had canceled the peer-review boards for three SEAL officers who supervised Gallagher during the Iraq deployment that gave rise to the war crimes charges. Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said the case was becoming a distraction for the commando force, known for its quiet professionalism but recently roiled with controversy.

The decision was the latest twist in the Gallagher matter. Trump has made no mention of the three SEAL officers also ordered to be reviewed. All three had overseen Gallagher during his 2017 deployment to Iraq.

But Modly said there were better ways to address any "failures in conduct, performance, judgment, or professionalism exhibited by these officers."

He directed the chief of naval operations to end the review process for Lt. Cmdr. Robert Breisch, Lt. Jacob Portier and Lt. Thomas MacNeil.

"The United States Navy, and the Naval Special Warfare Community specifically, have dangerous and important work to do," Modly said in a statement. "In my judgment, neither deserves the continued distraction and negative attention that recent events have evoked." □



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After wind scare, balloons fly in Macy's Thanksgiving parade

By SABRINA CASERTA

NEW YORK (AP) — The beloved balloons flew, but lower than usual, in a windy Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade after an anxious weather watch.

Wind had threatened to ground the giant inflated characters. But officials announced less than an hour before Thursday's start time that the balloons could fly, if in a down-to-Earth way.

As the parade continued — even while city emergency officials sent out a public alert about wind gusts — handlers struggled with some giant balloons and pulled them close to the ground. Meanwhile, winds did keep giant balloons out of Philadelphia's Thanksgiving Day parade. The Macy's parade balloons might have been lowered, but Susan Koten's spirits weren't. She has traveled from Florida, three years in a row, to see the parade.

"We love it. Because it's exciting, it's patriotic, and it just — it warms your heart," she said.

Spectators lined up a half-dozen deep along the route on a gusty fall day, with leaves and confetti swirling in the wind.

A "Green Eggs and Ham" balloon joined the lineup. Smokey Bear returned for the first time since 1993, and spectators got to see new versions of favorites Snoopy and SpongeBob SquarePants.

A smaller new balloon, Japanese artist Yayoi Kusa-

ma's "Love Flies Up to the Sky," and two star-shaped balloons ultimately didn't make the lineup because of tears and stress from inflation before the parade, Macy's said. A giant Ronald McDonald balloon also tore before the parade and was pulled out midway through, the company said. The McDonald's character had a visibly deflated leg.

Macy's spokesman Orlando Veras called the parade "a fantastic event despite these minor challenges." During the middle of the parade, the wind was 13 mph (21 kph) with gusts up to 32 mph (51 kph), according to the National Weather Service.

City rules require balloons to be grounded if sustained winds exceed 23 mph (37 kph) and gusts exceed 34 mph (55 kph). The balloons have been grounded only once for weather-related reasons, in 1971.

On Thursday, in a windy spot near the start of the 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) route, a Nutcracker balloon knocked into a handler, who fell down but then continued along. A Grinch balloon touched some trees as it passed a corner, drawing an "ooh!" from the crowd.

To parade-goer Kate O'Connor, the wind was "scary, especially around the corners — they're like wind tunnels."

It was still cool to see the balloons up close, "but they're really meant to be

seen from underneath," said the resident of Newtown, Connecticut, who comes to the parade every other year with her daughter, Megan, 8.

Joanna Mammen and her family came from Bradford County in northern Pennsylvania to revisit the parade she attended every year while growing up in the Bronx.

"My favorite float, as a kid, was Santa Claus," said Mammen, 69. "Most of the other floats from that time, the kids these days wouldn't even recognize. But it's a beautiful tradition, to come out and experience the crowd."

It was a first-time experience for her husband, Bill. And for him, it was all about sharing the fun with the couple's son, Jason, and 2-year-old grandson, Lincoln.

"Thanksgiving is not just about the people I love. It is the people I love," he said.

Willie Brown traveled from Dallas to see the parade, particularly entertainers Ciara and Kelly Rowland.

"This was really a bucket list item for me, Macy's Day



Participants make their way down New York's Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Parade in New York City," the 23-year-old said. "You grow up seeing glimpses on TV, but it's something I knew I needed to experience."

The parade, one of the city's most popular events, features about 8,000 marchers, two dozen floats, entertainers and marching bands, ending with an appearance from Santa Claus.

The character balloons can go as high as 55 feet (16 meters) off the ground and as low as 10 feet (3 meters). The rules requiring them to

be grounded in high winds came after a "Cat in the Hat" balloon blew into a lamppost near Central Park in 1997, critically injuring a woman.

In 2005, an M&M's balloon smacked into a lamppost in Times Square, causing cuts and bruises to a woman in a wheelchair and her 11-year-old sister.

In 2017, a gust on an otherwise calm day sent a smaller balloon into a tree branch. That one popped and fell harmlessly onto the crowd. □

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3 hurt at Texas chemical plant hit by 2 massive explosions

PORT NECHES, Texas (AP)

— Two massive explosions 13 hours apart tore through a Texas chemical plant Wednesday, and one left three workers injured.

The blasts blew out windows and doors of nearby homes and prompted a mandatory evacuation of a 4-mile (7-kilometer) radius from the plant in Port Neches in Southeast Texas, about 80 miles (129 kilometers) east of Houston. Officials say they have no estimate for how long the fire will burn.

The initial explosion at the TPC Group plant, which makes chemical and petroleum-based products, occurred around 1 a.m. It sent a large plume of smoke stretching for miles and started a fire.

The three workers hurt during the blast —two TPC employees and a contractor — were treated at hospitals and released, said

Troy Monk, TPC's director of health, safety and security. About 30 employees working at the plant at the time of the explosion were all accounted for, according to TPC.

Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick, the top county official, told Beaumont TV station KFDM that it's a miracle no one died. He said one worker suffered burns and the others had a broken wrist and a broken leg. Monk said the blast occurred in an area of the plant that makes butadiene, a chemical used to make synthetic rubber and other products. He said the plant has 175 full-time employees and 50 contract workers.

The second blast ripped through the plant about 2 p.m., sending a steel reactor tower rocketing high into the air. That prompted Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick, the top county

official, to order a mandatory evacuation of Port Neches and neighboring Groves, Nederland and part of Port Arthur. Water cannons were trained on surrounding plant works and tanks to keep them cool and avoid further explosions.

At a Wednesday night news conference, Branick said a loss of power at the plant prevented any investigation into the cause of the explosions or how much damage was done to the facility. Likewise, he said there was no estimate yet for the amount of damage to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Monk said TPC would form an investigation team to determine what led to the explosions.

"We're staying focused on the safety of our emergency response personnel folks in and around the community as well as trying to



Smoke and fire are visible from the TPC Group Port Neches Operations explosion on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, in Port Neches, Texas.

Associated Press

protect the environment," Monk said at a news conference.

Firefighters have not been able to fully assess the damage at the plant, he said.

Branick, who lives near the plant, said at the news conference that he was awakened at his home by the initial blast, which blew in his front and back doors, "damaging them pretty significantly."

Jefferson County Emergency Management coordinator Mike White told the Beaumont Enterprise that five residents were being treated for minor injuries,

mostly related to shattered glass. He said state environmental officials were monitoring air quality but that no elevated chemical levels had been detected.

Texas has seen multiple petrochemical industry blazes this year, including a March fire that burned for days near Houston and another that killed a worker at a plant in nearby Crosby.

In the March fire, prosecutors filed five water pollution charges against the company that owns the petrochemical storage facility after chemicals flowed into a nearby waterway. □

Video app TikTok unblocks teen who posted on China's Muslims

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

Chinese-owned video app TikTok says it has unblocked a U.S. teenager and restored her viral video condemning China's treatment of its Muslim minority.

The video was removed for 50 minutes Wednesday due to a "human moderation error," according to a statement from Eric Han, an American who heads TikTok's U.S. content-moderation team. The site's guidelines don't preclude the video's content, Han said. TikTok is popular with millions of U.S. teens and young adults but several U.S. senators have raised concerns about data collection and censorship on

the site of content not in line with the Chinese government. The U.S. government has reportedly launched a national-security review of the site. The 40-second video, which news reports identified as the work of 17-year-old Feroza Aziz of New Jersey, starts off as an innocuous tutorial on how to get long eyelashes.

It then segues into an appeal for viewers to inform themselves of plight of the Muslim minority in China. "This is another Holocaust, yet no one is talking about it," Aziz says. China is estimated to have detained up to 1 million minority Muslims Uighurs in prisonlike detention centers. □



U.S. to pay less into NATO budget as Macron urges deep talks



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, is welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

By SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — NATO leaders must stop bickering over defense spending and have a deep discussion about the future of the military alliance and how ties with Russia can be improved at a summit, French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday.

Macron's call for intensive talks on how to shore up security in Europe, cope with volatile member Turkey and restore U.S. leadership came as NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg

said Washington will pay less into the alliance's budget from next year, with Germany filling the spending gap.

Ahead of a summit of NATO leaders in London next week, Macron held discussions with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in Paris.

At a joint press conference, Macron posed a series of questions about NATO, an organization that he termed as "brain dead" just a few weeks ago, a charge that was criticized by others within the alliance.

"NATO is an organization of collective defense. Against what, against who is it defending itself? Who is our common enemy? What are our common topics? This question deserves clarifications."

Macron said he was glad his recent comments have acted as a "wake-up call" and that it was "irresponsible" to just talk about financial and technical matters. "A real alliance is action, decisions, not words. So, I want us to have a real dialogue among allies," he insisted.

Macron complained that NATO's two previous summits have focused almost exclusively on defense spending and "how to alleviate the financial cost for the United States."

At the Dec. 3-4 summit in London, Trump is expected to repeat his demand that European nations and Canada increase their defense spending. The U.S. spends more on defense than all other 28 allies combined.

In an announcement Thursday, Stoltenberg said the allies have agreed to reformulate NATO's relatively small in-house budget and that Washington would now pay less.

NATO allies agreed last year to a 2019 civil budget for running things like the organization's headquarters of \$250.5 million. A further \$1.4 billion was earmarked for spending on military mis-

sions around the world. But Stoltenberg said Thursday that a new cost-sharing formula has been agreed and that "the U.S. will pay less, Germany will pay more."

Washington was previously the biggest contributor, paying about 22%. Stoltenberg said the U.S. and Germany will now both pay "roughly 16%."

The move does not concern the national defense budgets that Trump routinely complains about but could help to mollify him. It came a day after

NATO announced a \$1 billion contract to refurbish its aging fleet of surveillance planes made by U.S. aircraft manufacturer Boeing. Macron said France won't increase its contributions for NATO's in-house budget and referred to the 13 French soldiers killed in a helicopter collision as they were fighting Islamic State group-linked extremists in Mali.

"If anyone wants to see what they call cost sharing, they can come to the ceremony that France is organizing on Monday," he said. "They will see the price."

Macron said NATO really needs to focus on what it's about, to resolve a series of questions, such as how to maintain peace in Europe, relations with Russia, the role of Turkey in NATO and who the alliance's enemies might be.

He called for a return to

dialogue with Russia that is "lucid, robust and demanding" in order to enhance confidence and security on the continent. NATO's relations with Russia have arguably been at their frostiest since the end of the Cold War as a result Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. Macron added that the alliance needs to focus on the common enemy, which he said is neither Russia nor China, but extremist groups.

Despite the in-fighting, Stoltenberg played down the divisions and insisted that NATO was as relevant as it has ever been.

"In uncertain times we need strong multinational institutions like NATO," he said.

"The paradox is that while questions are being asked about the strength of the trans-Atlantic bond, North America and Europe are doing more together than they have done for decades."

Macron also lamented the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which the U.S. abandoned after insisting that Russia was violating the pact. The INF was a Cold War-era bilateral agreement between Washington and Moscow.

"To say that a treaty is over without having anything else in place," he said. "Let's be serious. We're talking about Europe's security."

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Ban Black Friday? French activists, lawmakers want to try

PARIS (AP) — Dozens of French activists blocked an Amazon warehouse south of Paris in a Black Friday-inspired protest, amid increased opposition to the post-Thanksgiving sales phenomenon that has seen a group of French lawmakers push to ban it altogether. Protesters from climate group Amis de la terre (Friends of the Earth) spread hay and old refrigerators and microwaves on the driveway leading to the warehouse in Bretigny-

sur-Orge on Thursday. They held signs in front of the gates reading "Amazon: For the climate, for jobs, stop expansion, stop over-production!" The activists were later dislodged by police. More demonstrations are expected as Black Friday looms into view. French climate groups are planning "Block Friday" demonstrations Friday. Their objections are garnering some support within France's National Assembly. Some French lawmakers want

to ban Black Friday, which has morphed into a global phenomenon even though it stems from a specifically U.S. holiday: Thanksgiving Thursday. A French legislative committee passed an amendment Monday that proposes prohibiting Black Friday since it causes "resource waste" and "over-consumption."

The amendment, which was put forward by France's former environment minister, Delphine Batho, will be debated next month. □

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Angry China weighs options as Trump backs Hong Kong bills

BEIJING (AP) — China's fury over President Donald Trump's decision to sign legislation supporting human rights in Hong Kong is evident. What's less clear is what "countermeasures" Beijing may take in response to what it said Thursday were "extremely evil" and dangerous moves. Before signing the bills, Trump said he was concerned that trade talks with China might be disrupted. Analysts say the potential consequences could extend well beyond the current round of negotiations in the tariff war between the world's two largest economies.

The Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 passed both houses of Congress nearly unanimously. It amends a law passed in 1992 to buttress the former British colony's status as a semi-autonomous region after China took control in 1997.

It's that special status that has enabled Hong Kong residents to take to the streets in massive, often violent protests in the past six months, exercising civil liberties the ruling Communist Party prohibits in mainland China.

The law calls for sanctions against Chinese and Hong Kong officials deemed to have abused human rights. A separate law bans exports of tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, water cannons, tasers and other "nonlethal" weapons often used in riot control.

China's foreign ministry said the support for the protesters, who have at times

paralyzed parts of the city with mass transport disruptions, university occupations and clashes with police, amounts to backing for "violent criminals."

In a reflection of Beijing's assertion that the protests are part of a foreign conspiracy, the ministry said the legislation should unite Chinese, including those in Hong Kong, in opposition to "sinister" U.S. intentions.

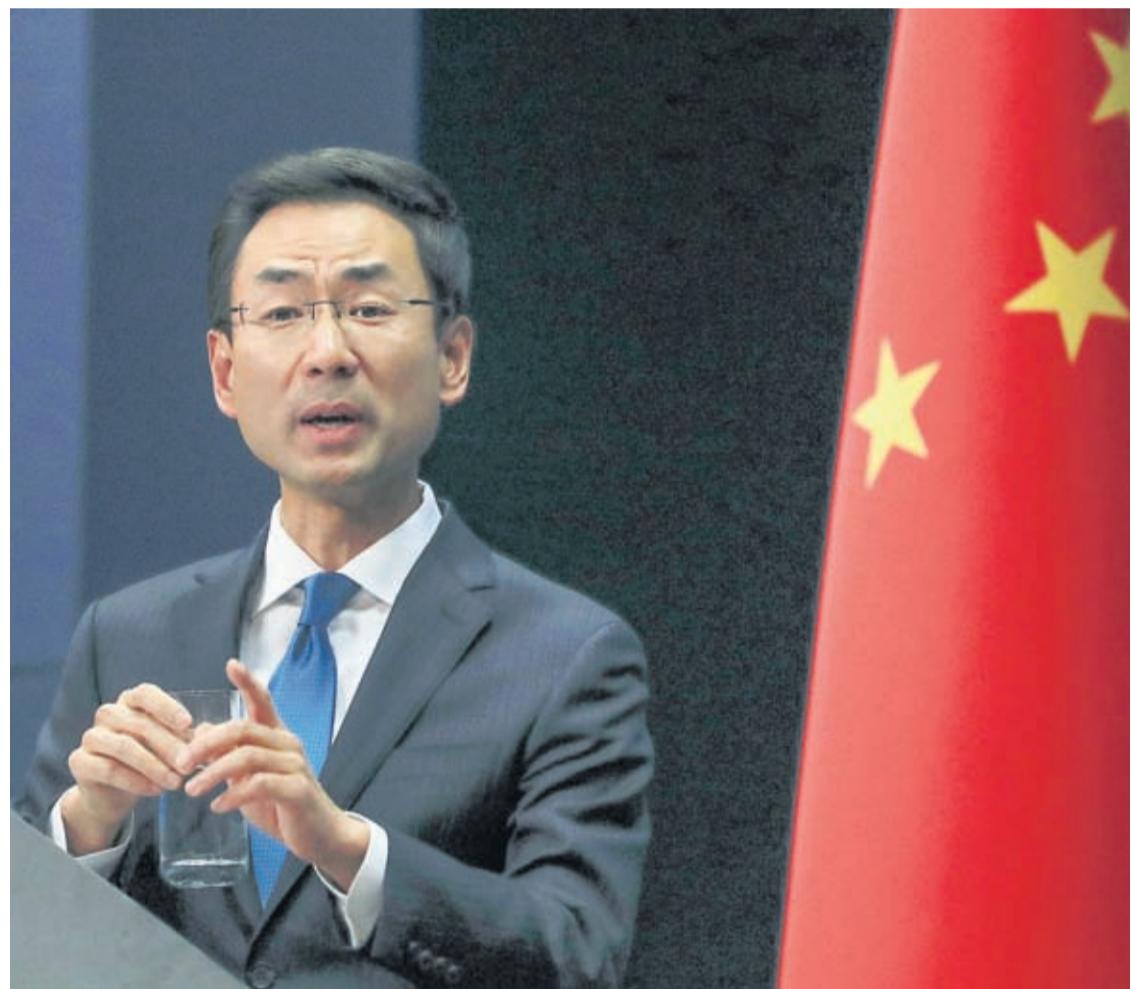
The legislation includes a provision that could profoundly alter U.S. treatment of Hong Kong as a separate territory for trade if an annual review by the State Department determines it no longer has enough autonomy from the Chinese mainland.

That could "have a hugely negative impact on investors in Hong Kong, no matter if they're from Hong Kong, mainland China or other countries," said Shi Yinhong, an expert on international relations at Renmin University's School of International Studies.

Trade with China would suffer more, given Hong Kong's status as an important financial center — a role that has been growing as relations between China and the U.S. have deteriorated amid their bruising trade war.

"The most needed prospect of certainty for business will vanish," said Shi, who expects China to adopt a tougher stance on trade and other issues.

Apart from balking at further trade talks, Beijing's options for retaliation could include refusing to cooperate with Washington in



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang gestures as he speaks during a daily briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in Beijing, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

dealings with North Korea and Iran, recalling the Chinese ambassador to the U.S. or even downgrading diplomatic ties, Shi said.

Trump is due to raise tariffs on \$160 billion worth of Chinese products, including smartphones and laptops, as of Dec. 15. Officials on both sides were suggesting a preliminary deal to ease trade tensions was within striking distance and it's unclear if the U.S. move will directly affect those negotiations.

A Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman, asked at a weekly news briefing, said

there was no new information to offer.

So far, the two sides have sought to keep Hong Kong and trade issues separate, said Tu Xinquan of the University of International Business and Economics.

"China doesn't want to connect the two things together," said Tu. "China believes trade issues should not be politicized."

Trump has not devoted much attention to Hong Kong, and Chinese leaders likely understand he had little option politically but to sign the legislation. It's not the first time Beijing

has been incensed by U.S. moves on Taiwan and other issues.

The best that can be hoped for right now is to keep relations at their current chilly level and wait to see if the legislation leads to actual action by Washington.

Like the proverbial sword of Damocles, it might not fall, said Tu.

"If the U.S. takes sanctions against Hong Kong based on those future reviews, China will take countermeasures," he said. "The kind of measures will depend on how serious the U.S. actions are." □

Rebel attacks in eastern Congo kill several Ebola responders

By AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO
and CARA ANNA

Associated Press

BENI, Congo (AP) — Rebels killed four Ebola response workers in an overnight ambush in eastern Congo, the World Health Organization said Thursday, warning that the attack will give the waning outbreak new momentum in what has been called a war zone.

"We are heartbroken that our worst fears have been realized," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. It was by far the deadliest such attack in the second-worst Ebola outbreak in history, the United Nations health agency said.

The dead included a member of a vaccination team, two drivers and a police officer. Many of the six others wounded were with Congo's health ministry.

Mai-Mai fighters attacked a camp housing scores of aid workers overnight in Biakato, local official Salambongo Selemani told The Associated Press. Warnings had been posted demanding that the health workers leave or face "the worst," Selemani said.



In this Tuesday, July 16, 2019 file photo, health workers dressed in protective gear begin their shift at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo DRC.

Associated Press

The other attack targeted an Ebola response coordination office in Mangina, WHO said. Allied Democratic Forces rebels are to blame, Beni territory administrator Donat Kasereka Kibwana said.

WHO's emergencies director Dr. Mike Ryan, however, said neither the attackers' identities nor their motivation had been confirmed but it was "unmistakably a directed attack at the response." More than 100

WHO staffers and other aid workers were evacuated. This is not the first time that health workers trying to contain the outbreak have been targeted. Overall, health workers and infrastructure have been attacked 386 times with seven people killed and 77 wounded, Ryan said.

Some have called this outbreak more complicated than any other. Several rebel groups are active in the region, and local offi-

cials say some believe Ebola is nothing but a political ploy.

"Imagine, a doctor leaves home in the U.S. or elsewhere to come sleep in a tent to help save us from this scourge of Ebola and yet poorly educated young people want to attack him. ... It is very deplorable," said Fiston Kamango, a youth leader in Biakato. The latest attacks come after days of deadly unrest in the city of Beni, where residents outraged by repeated rebel attacks stormed the local U.N. peacekeeping base, demanding more protection. WHO evacuated 49 of its staffers there, leaving 71 in place.

The United States, Britain, Canada and Switzerland on Thursday issued a joint statement condemning the "senseless acts of violence" by armed groups and appealing for calm while saying they understood the local frustrations.

Ebola response work was put on lockdown in Beni, dismaying health experts who say every attack hurts crucial efforts to contain the deadly virus. Most of the recent new cases have been reported in the newly targeted communities of Biakato, Mangina and Beni. "The last strongholds of the virus were in these areas," WHO's Ryan said. He called working conditions in the remote areas difficult at the best of times.

The number of cases had been dropping in the yearlong outbreak which has killed more than 2,100 people and was declared a rare global health emergency earlier this year. Several days this month, zero cases were reported. Just seven cases were reported in the past week, WHO said. Cases have surged after previous attacks on health workers and facilities. "Ebola was retreating. These attacks will give it force again," the WHO chief said. In one example of how any pause can sharply affect Ebola containment efforts, WHO has said no one in Beni could be vaccinated against the virus on Monday. The health agen-

cy previously could trace more than 90% of contacts of infected people in the city but now that figure is just 17%, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

Residents accuse Congolese and U.N. forces of not doing enough to protect civilians from the rebels who fight for control of the region's vast mineral wealth. The ADF alone is blamed for the murders of more than 1,500 people in and around Beni in the past four years.

The latest rebel attack outside Beni killed 19 people, the U.N. said Wednesday.

After an emergency meeting Monday, President Felix Tshisekedi decided to allow joint operations between Congolese and U.N. forces in Beni following the protests that also burned the town hall.

Far from the capital, Kinshasa, some traumatized residents in the densely populated border region near Uganda and Rwanda are wary of outsiders, further complicating the Ebola containment work in a part of Congo that had never recorded the virus before.

Despite two promising new Ebola vaccines, health workers continue to battle misinformation and reluctance to seek treatment for the virus that is largely spread via close contact with the bodily fluids of infected people, including the dead.

In addition, many local health workers have been recruited by the "well-paying" Ebola response, leading to shortages of trained people to deal with other serious health issues such as an even deadlier measles outbreak and malaria, the medical charity Doctors Without Borders said in a statement. □

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Group urges international court to probe Brazil's president

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A group of Brazilian lawyers and former ministers have requested that the International Criminal Court investigate President Jair Bolsonaro for allegedly inciting the genocide of indigenous people and failing to safeguard the forests and protected lands they live in.

They described in a press conference Thursday what they said were "widespread, systematic attacks" on indigenous tribes under the Bolsonaro administration, which is seeking to promote economic development in the Amazon often at the expense of environmental regulation.

The document the group sent to the court includes 33 actions and comments from Bolsonaro, said Eloísa Machado de Almeida, a law professor at the Fundação Getúlio Vargas university in São Paulo, who presented the details of the request.

The allegations range from the president's vocal support of small-scale illegal mining in protected areas, to his criticism of some public servants working with environmental and indigenous affairs, and the data they produce.

Bolsonaro's office declined to comment.

Experts say The Hague-based International Criminal Court receives thousands of similar communications each year. Most do not lead to investigations or indictments.

"If the private groups are serious about pursuing an investigation, not simply drawing attention to the situation in Brazil, it should convince other states in the region to formally refer Brazil to the Court," said Kevin Jon Heller, an associate professor of international law at the University of Amsterdam. This strategy was adopted for instance by some Venezuelan states, and is more likely to be successful, he said.

Bolsonaro, a former army captain, has argued that environmental protections often become an obstacle to economic development in Brazil. His administration says it is working on new legislation that would regularize small-scale mining activities in protected areas. Critics argue that the president's comments are empowering land-grabbers and illegal loggers.

The fires that swept through the Amazon in July and August were mostly intentionally set to clear deforested land for soy production or pastures. Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest is also at its highest level in more than a decade, government data shows.

"It's true that there have

been environmental challenges for centuries in this country, but what is happening under President Bolsonaro is different," argued de Almeida, the law professor. "The dismantling of public (environmental protection) policies, and the direct attack on indigenous peoples did not exist under previous administrations. □



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro flashes a thumbs up as he greets supporters after attending a Changing of the Guard at the Planalto Presidential Palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019.

Associated Press



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Peru's Fujimori will leave prison to new political landscape

By MAURICIO MUÑOZ and JORGE RUEDA

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — When opposition leader Keiko Fujimori leaves prison, her supporters will applaud her freedom and her detractors will lament what they consider more impunity for the corrupt, but the reality is the future is far from clear for the woman who twice almost won Peru's presidency.

The Constitutional Tribunal narrowly approved a habeas corpus request to free Fujimori from detention while she is investigated for alleged corruption. But the magistrates noted the 4-3 decision does not constitute a judgment on her guilt or innocence with regards to accusations she accepted money from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.

The daughter of imprisoned former President Alberto Fujimori — who herself was jailed in October 2018 — could be returned to a cell. "Although the Constitutional Tribunal has freed her for a strictly procedural matter, it has not absolved her of any of the charges, and it also did not dismiss the new charges made by the Public Ministry," political analyst Iván García Mayer said.

It is unclear when Fujimori will be freed, but authorities said after Monday's court ruling that it could happen later in the week.

The 44-year-old will leave prison to a changed political landscape, facing the tough task of rebuilding her political party and career, both of which have been eroded by scandals. Her



In this Oct. 17, 2018 file photo, Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of Peru's former President Alberto Fujimori, and leader of the opposition party, enters to the courtroom wearing a chest vest that reads in Spanish: "Detained" during a hearing where she is appealing her detention in Lima, Peru.

Associated Press

Popular Force party held a majority in congress until September, when President Martín Vizcarra dissolved the legislature in a popular move he described as necessary to uproot corruption. The conservative Popular Force will participate in January legislative elections, but Fujimori is not expected to be a candidate and some expect the party to fade in the vote.

As leader of Popular Force, Fujimori managed to undermine the government of Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, fueling the impeachment of the now imprisoned ex-president for lying about his ties with Odebrecht.

But now Fujimori herself has been ensnared by a corruption scandal that has toppled political and business leaders around Latin

America.

In 2016, Odebrecht recognized in a plea agreement with the U.S. Justice Department that it paid some \$800 million in bribes to officials throughout the region. The bribes included some \$29 million in Peru for public works contracts during the administrations of President Alejandro Toledo and two of his successors. Corruption allegations have hit all of Peru's presidents between 2001 and 2016. Prosecutors accuse Fujimori of laundering \$1.2 million provided by Odebrecht for her 2011 and 2016 presidential campaigns. They opened an investigation into the campaigns after seeing a note written by Marcelo Odebrecht, head of the Brazilian mega-company, on his cellphone that

said: "increase Keiko to 500 and pay a visit."

Fujimori denies the accusations against her and says prosecutors and Peru's election body have received Popular Force's accounting books for inspection.

Her jailing capped a striking downfall for a politician who went from first lady at age 19, to powerful opposition leader, to within a hair's breadth of the presidency. Hundreds of mostly young people protested Monday's ruling freeing her, calling it another demonstration of impunity for the corrupt.

But Fujimori's supporters have painted "Free Keiko" signs around Lima. Her husband, Mark Villanella, had been on a more than week-long hunger strike

outside the jail holding Fujimori.

Fujimori's father, a strongman who governed Peru from 1990 to 2000, remains a polarizing figure. Some Peruvians praise him for defeating Maoist Shining Path guerrillas and resurrecting a devastated economy, while others detest him for human rights violations. He is serving a 25-year sentence for human rights abuses and corruption.

Keiko Fujimori assumed the role of first lady following the traumatic divorce of her father and Susana Higuchi.

She graduated in business administration from Boston University in 1997 and returned to the United States in 2000 to obtain a master's degree in business from Columbia University.

She tried to follow in her father's presidential footsteps and forge a gentler, kinder version of the movement known as "Fujimorismo." She finished second in the 2011 election and five years later lost in a razor-thin vote, coming within less than half a percentage point of defeating Kuczynski.

Now, emerging into a new Peru with a dissolved congress and widespread dislike for political elites, Fujimori faces a tough situation, analysts say.

She "is in a very bad position; it will be very difficult for her to recover because the immense majority believe she really committed acts of corruption," said analyst and sociologist Fernando Rospigliosi.

"She is not going to recover in the medium term," he said. □



Bolivia's Foreign Minister Karen Longaric attends a press conference introducing the newly appointed ambassador to the United States, at the Foreign Ministry in La Paz, Bolivia, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

Bolivia to renew Israel ties after rupture under Morales

By PAOLA FLORES

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia said Thursday it will restore diplomatic ties with Israel, a decade after then-President Evo Morales severed relations because of an Israeli military offensive in Gaza.

The renewal of ties with Is-

rael was announced by interim Foreign Minister Karen Longaric as part of an overhaul of Bolivia's foreign policy following Morales' resignation this month.

Many Israeli tourists visited Bolivia before Morales cut off relations with Israel, and the hope is that they will re-

turn, Longaric said.

Israel's foreign minister, Israel Katz, welcomed the Bolivian announcement.

Bolivia's interim government has also named Walter Oscar Serrate Cuellar as the new ambassador to the United States after an 11-year diplomatic rupture. □

LOCAL



Start of peak season



By Joris Zantvoort

ORANJESTAD — Miss the sunshine? Looking to escape the autumn blues? Or do you simply want to catch some fish this November? Whatever the case, Aruba's got you covered. With steady 88 degree temperatures, a colorful Caribbean backdrop, and insanely good fishing, Aruba's got everything a traveling angler could want.

November marks the start of peak season for deep sea fishing in Aruba. Just like in October, the seas are abundant with mighty Billfish such as Blue and White Marlin, as well as the Atlantic Sailfish. By mid-November, a new other pelagic predator comes to join the party. Ready your tackle, it's time for some Yellowfin fishing!

The only downside to hunting such large pelagics is that the seas can get a bit rough. If you're fishing with kids, you might want to keep to the reefs. But guess what? Reef fishing in Aruba is just as exciting!

The Caribbean "regulars", Wahoo and Mahi Mahi, mean that you can catch a tasty dinner on just a half day outing. The best part is, Aruba is full of colorful "hook and cook" restaurants that will gladly cook your catch for you.

Just the other day, a couple of lucky anglers had a great outing on the reefs with Captain Michael aboard Kristel Fishing. They both caught a bunch of fish, including two 20+ lb Wahoo! Not bad for just a four hour trip.

And if that wasn't enough reef fish, Snapper, Rainbow Runner and Kingfish will be glad to take your bait on any day of the week.

If you'd like to enjoy Aruba's inshore waterways, you'd be glad to know that Permit fishing is on fire! The baby Tarpon Aruba's known for aren't as abundant in November, but for those of you who'd like a challenge, there are good numbers of Bonefish to go for on the fly.



Captain of the Month

Captain Michael Wever is one of Aruba's very best fishing guides. Captain Mike has been fishing since he was four years old, and driven a boat since the age of seven. Being a father of four and grandfather of one, Mike takes the safety of his guests very seriously. His 44 ft Striker is perfect for families fishing with their kids.

The boat is a spacious motor yacht, which can comfortably fit a party of 15. It's powered by two 450 HP engines, so you can be sure you'll get to your spot in no time. In terms of amenities, you'll have everything from an enclosed toilet, two beds and a kitchen, so you can feel comfortable embarking on a longer outing.

The boat is equipped with state of the art navigational systems, so you'll know exactly where to head for those big fish. Once you catch 'em, the onboard icebox will keep your catch nice and cool for the trip back. Speaking of catch, the crew will allow you to keep one third of the bounty, which they will cut and fillet for you, so you can enjoy that dinner in no time. Captain Mike provides all the gear as well as your licenses, so all you have to do is bring your lucky hat! Oh, and some sunscreen would be good, too. You may be fishing in November, but hey, this is Aruba we're talking about, where the fishing is never bad. So, what are you waiting for?

Start packing, and let's get that Aruba fishing adventure under way! □

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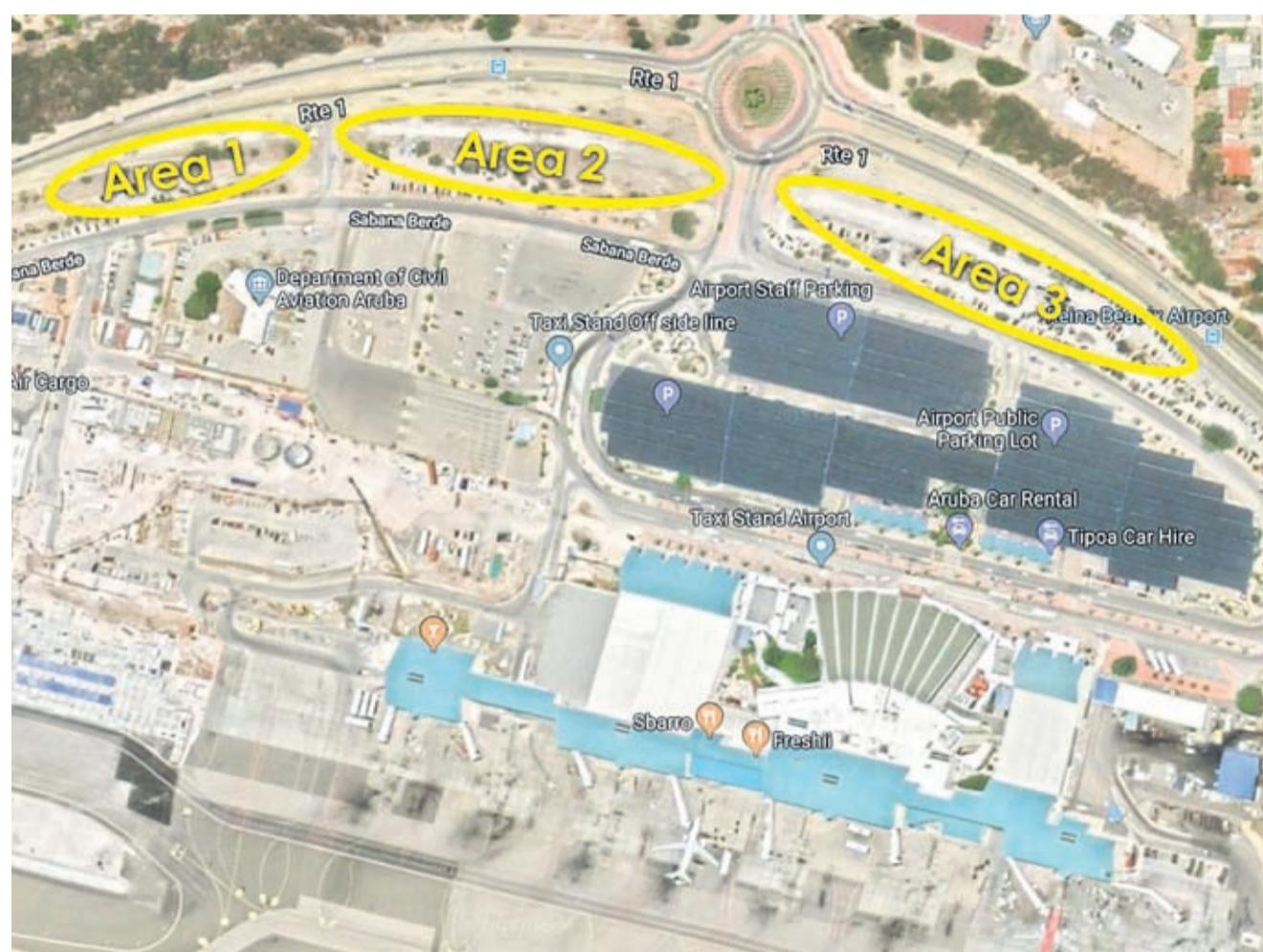
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Reminder to all airport users

"Wild parking areas" will be closed off as of December 1st, 2019

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) hereby reminds all airport users who currently park in the "wild parking areas" as indicated in the picture, that as of coming Sunday, December 1st, 2019 it will no longer be possible to park there. The closing that was announced at the end of October 2019 has been ongoing already and the areas in question have been closed off with boulders partially during the past weeks. On Sunday December 1, 2019 the openings that remain will be closed off completely at 00:00 hrs. After the mentioned date all vehicles that are still parked in that area can be removed by contacting either our Customer Service office at 524-2424 or our Traffic Attendants office at 524-2116 or 524-2471 in order for us to assist with opening the closed off areas. This will only be for removing of the vehicles. No entry for parking and/or staging in that area will be possible under any circumstance after December 1, 2019.

If airport users wish to use the covered or uncovered staff parking at AAA, a request must be sent to b.brown@airportaruba.com or r.winklaar@airportaruba.com as soon as possible. □



Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

Aruba's Father of Culture has gone to heaven

ORANJESTAD — Juan Chabaya Lampe or Padu del Caribe the man, the legend, the father of Aruban culture has passed away yesterday afternoon at the age of 99 years. He was perhaps one of the most internationally renowned and influential artists his beloved native island of Aruba has ever known.

Starting with the release of his first record in late 1960 – which was titled “Padu del Caribe en Venezuela”, a record which went on to sell 50.000 copies within its first year of release and established him as a household name in Venezuela – he has established himself as one of the most esteemed legacies in Caribbean music over the course of a career which has spanned five decades. He was born in Oranjestad, Aruba on April 26th 1920 with the given name Juan Chabaya Lampe, one could argue that Padu del Caribe – he adopted the name Padu after it was bestowed upon him as a nickname in honor of his grandfather, his ‘padushi’ – was destined to leave his mark on the music world as he was born into a very musical family. Padú del Caribe wrote “Aruba Dushi Tera”, a waltz that is now the national anthem for Aruba and was long a rallying cry for separation from the Netherlands Antilles, which was achieved in 1986. □



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Aruba birdlife calendar 2020 a fact with support of Hilton



PALM BEACH — Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino has once again sponsored the new Aruba birdlife calendar. The 2020 Aruba bird calendar was presented to Hilton's General Manager Mr. Vasco Baselli by twin sisters Kim and Liz Peterson.

The 13 bird photographs

were made available by seven bird photographers. There are two pictures in the calendar that are related to the national Shoco conservation project. Baselli was informed that funds generated by the sales of the calendar are supporting the conservation of the Aruba Burrowing Owl. Baselli, an underwater nature

photographer himself, is very interested in the Shoco conservation project and is looking into ways that he could stimulate volunteer work intended to further the placement of artificial Shoco burrows around the island. Aruba Birdlife Conservation is delighted with the conservation help that

the new Hilton General Manager is bringing to the table. Greg Peterson, president of the board of Aruba Birdlife Conservation sees this sort of help as a new and positive move in the right direction and to the benefit of nature conservation in Aruba.

The 2020 bird calendars can be purchased at Huchada in Santa Cruz, Best Deal Aruba in Paradera, Veterinary Clinics Aruba in Wayaca and Noord, and at CONVET - Contreras Veterinary Services in Shaba. All proceeds go to the Aruba Birdlife Conservation Foundation. □



A Picky Eater's Guide to the Holidays

By Cindy Herde

MIAMI, USA — "Everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe. Help to make the season bright.

Tiny little tots with their eyes all aglow... Might find it hard to eat the food you provide." Ahh, the Holidays. No matter which one you celebrate, they all have two things in common: Family and Food!

However, if you have a picky eater, this magical season can come with anxiety and stress of relatives asking (and at times judging) why your child is not eating grandma's famous green beans or aunt Becca's matzo ball soup. So, we've put together a list of helpful tips to get you and your child through these gastronomic challenges this holiday season.

1. "To be prepared is half the victory." de Cervantes.

Picky eaters crave control and need your help building trust with food. So, prepping ahead is on top of my list. Talk to your child about the holidays and food traditions associated with them. Books like "What's for Thanksgiving Dinner" by Sally Huss can help with the preparation of the upcoming meals. YouTube videos about how to cook different dishes are great visuals

you can watch together and even try to replicate for a hands-on sensory experience.

Another way to help prep is to talk about the upcoming menu and help your child pick one or two items he would like to try. Remember children do their best when they know what to expect and what their choices are.

2. "Cooking is not just eating energy. It's an experience." Guy Fieri

Make the meal a fun hands-on experience. Pick a dish or two and try to make it with your child. One of my favorite ingredients to experiment with is a potato. Kids get excited when they realize that the potato can transform itself into so many different textures, colors, and flavors. You can even come up with fun names for dishes, like "Hulk Smashed Potatoes". Take time to help your child process what the dish looks like, tastes like or feels when touching or eating.

3. "A hungry stomach cannot hear." La Fontaine

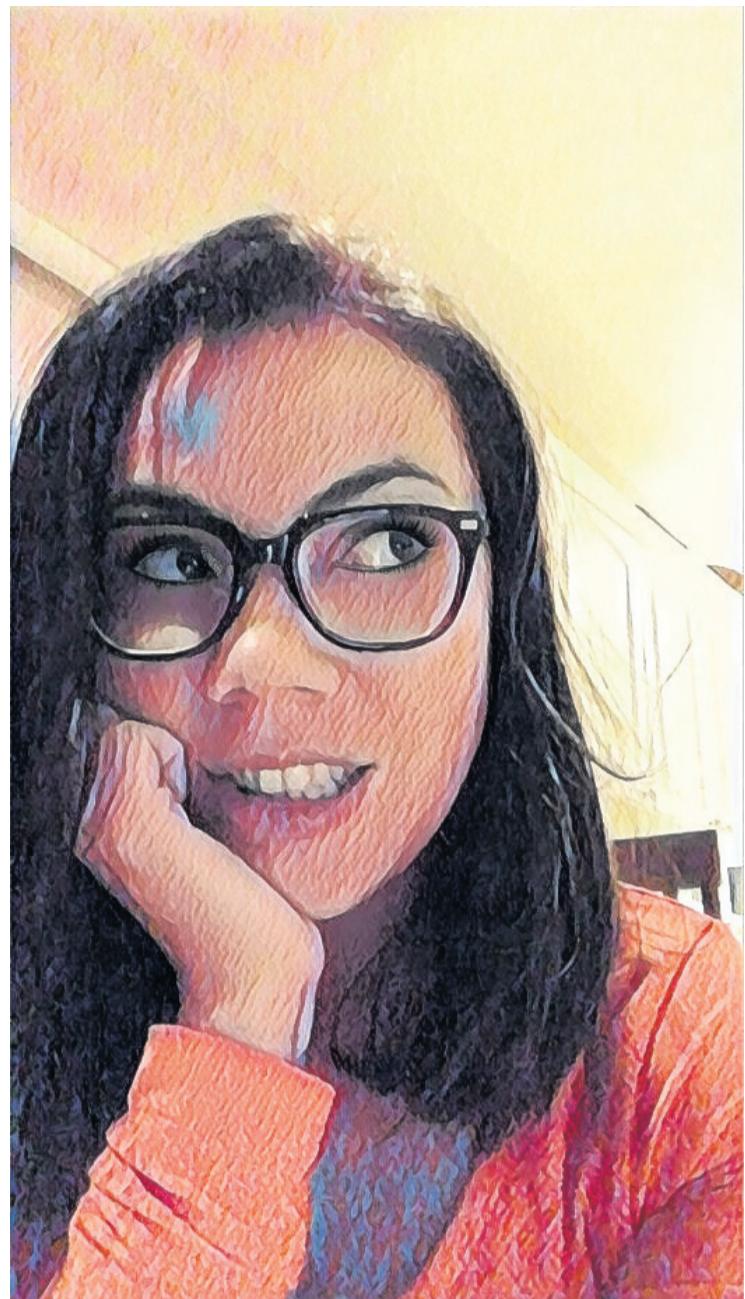
Offer your child a small amount of food or a snack before you leave the house or guests arrive. Starving your child will not be best when he is not in his daily environment. When over-

whelmed with new foods, people, and/or places, it's easy for kids to shut down. So make sure he has a good snack, however not too much so he's still curious and willing to try something new without the need to fuss about being hungry without his familiar foods.

4. "Don't tell me. Show me!" Unknown

Lead by example. One of the simplest recommendations I give parents is if you want your child to eat something, you should eat it too. Don't put rice on their plate and not put any on yours. Be a role model for your child's eating habits. The same should be applied around the holidays. The good thing about the holidays is that there's a high probability there will be plenty of other children around, who can serve as foodie role models. Consider setting up a kids' table, where kids can be themselves away from the constant scrutiny of aunt Karen. According to an article in Physiology Today titled Why Children Make Great Role Models (Oct 2017):

"Children make some of the best role models, simply because their original nature is to be purely and authentically themselves as well as their natural ability to be fully present in the



here-and-now, experiencing everything through their five senses in a state of unadulterated awareness."

Think about how this can help other kids who are weary and distrustful of food. Seeing other kids trying and enjoying foods at the same table can be the perfect model your child needs.

5. "If it is not good enough for your eye, why is it good enough for your stomach?" – Yourofsky

Most kids eat with their eyes first. So keep servings small and limit the number of items on their plate to a max of 2 or 3 different items. My rule of thumb is, it's better to offer seconds than remove an unfinished plate. Kids need to feel a sense of success and offering too much volume and variety might visually overwhelm your child. Offer small amounts and plenty of praise when your child has been able to finish his meal.

6. "There's no fear when you're having fun." – Will Thomas

Take the focus away from eating and instead make the day fun and interactive. Have your child help with setting the table, come up with a theme for the meal, make some arts & crafts centerpieces, etc. Playing fun games or activities like decorating cookies or stuffing the pretend turkey, can help remove anxiety around eating and shift the child's anticipation to something fun and relaxing.

7. "Don't get your tinsel in a tangle." – Unknown
Excitement, anxiety, anticipation, all these feelings can alter and affect your child's appetite. So go easy on your child and also on yourself. It's a given, family members will most definitely offer advice, and usually, it comes from those who you least expect it. The best reaction is no reaction. Smile and move on.

Continued on Next Page



Continued from Previous Page

Dr. Ellen Braaten, an HMS associate professor of psychology at Massachusetts General Hospital was quoted in an article titled Holiday Stress and the Brain saying: "People who feel stressed during the holidays should decide what they want the holidays to mean to them and keep their expectations for the season realistic." Remember the reasons you're celebrating the holidays in the first place and let that be your focus.

We hope these ideas make you feel empowered and ready to take on the holidays. As always, we appreciate your feedback. Send us a message and let us know what you think.

"So I'm offering these simple tips
For kids from one to ninety-two
Although' it's been said many times, many ways
Happy Holidays to you!"

**ABOUT CINDY HERDE**

"I was born and raised in Aruba, which fostered my fluency in four languages and my passion for the language arts. After graduating with my master's degree from the University of Central Florida – GO KNIGHTS! – I had the opportunity to move around the country and work in Orlando, Boston, and Chicago, before settling in sunny Miami with my husband and 2 kids. At each of these career stops I was fortunate to be part of extensive pediatric medical teams, working closely with and learning from fellow speech therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, nutritionists, lactation consultants, pediatricians, gastroenterologists, neurologists, early developmental specialists, respiratory therapists, behavior analysts, nurses, special education teachers and of course, parents and caregivers. Throughout my career I've enjoyed being an advocate for families whose primary language is not English, and treasured the opportunities that I've had to help these and multiple other families along their feeding journey.

However, becoming a parent in the spring of 2015 completely transformed my career perspective and approach. I now understand the anxieties and concerns that come with parenthood, and it has allowed me to become a different type of clinician... one who's more empathetic and focused on educating families and providers. Spurred by this new found passion, and armed with 14 years of pediatric field experience, I've decided to venture into a new approach to therapy."



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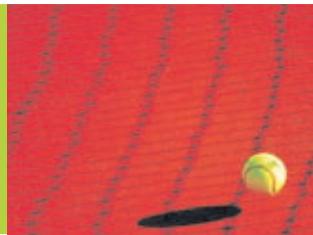
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SPORTS



St. Louis Blues' Oskar Sundqvist (70) reacts after scoring against the Tampa Bay Lightning during the second period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Sundqvist scores twice, Blues beat Lightning 4-3

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Oskar Sundqvist had two goals before leaving with an injury, and the St. Louis Blues beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-3 on Wednesday night.

Zach Sanford and Brayden Schenn scored in the third period and Jordan Binnington stopped 32 shots for the defending Stanley Cup champions. Ivan Barbashev had three assists after going six games without a point.

Sundqvist left in the second with a lower-body injury.

Tampa Bay got goals from Nikita Kucherov, Anthony Cirelli and Brayden Point. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 29 saves.

After Sanford scored the tiebreaker from the right circle at 8:21 of the third, Schenn made it 4-2 at 11:07 on the power play shortly after a 5-on-3 ended.

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LION KINGS



Bears rally for 24-20 win in Detroit

Chicago Bears wide receiver Anthony Miller (17), defended by Detroit Lions cornerback Justin Coleman (27), catches during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, in Detroit.

Associated Press
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Trick TD sparks Bills in 26-15 Thanksgiving win over Cowboys

By SCHUYLER DIXON
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— John Brown became the first Buffalo receiver to throw a touchdown pass and the Bills went on to beat the Dallas Cowboys 26-15 on Thursday.

Bills quarterback Josh Allen ran for a touchdown and threw a TD pass to Cole Beasley, who had 110 yards receiving in his first game against his former team. The Bills (9-3) got their first Thanksgiving win since 1975 in their first appearance on the holiday in 25 years.

The Cowboys (6-6) stumbled after scoring a touchdown on their opening drive, giving Philadelphia a chance to rejoin them atop the NFC East after their fourth double-digit loss in the past six Thanksgiving games.

A lackluster showing for Dallas' sixth loss in nine games came four days after owner Jerry Jones blasted the coaching staff following a loss to New England from a team that entered the season with lofty expectations. Allen was 19 of 24 for 231 yards and a career-best 120.7 passer rating as Bills won their third straight game and solidified their hold on an AFC wild-card spot.

The second-year quarterback found the ball at the bottom of a pile after fumbling a snap on fourth-and-1, quickly reached the ball over the first down spot and then stumbled forward 3 yards to the Dallas 28.

On the next play, Brown took a pitch on a double reverse and lofted the ball to wide-open running back Devin Singletary for Buffalo's first lead at 13-7 in the second quarter.

The Cowboys couldn't blame a sputtering offense on the conditions after the windy and rainy loss to the Patriots. Dak Prescott threw an interception, lost one fumble and had another on fourth down as Dallas was outscored 26-0 over a 50-minute stretch.

Ezekiel Elliott had 54 yards rushing and another 20 receiving in the first nine minutes, but wasn't much of a factor the rest of the way.

He finished with 71 yards rushing and 66 receiving. Singletary became the latest back to have a splashier day than the two-time rushing champion, rushing for 63 yards with 38 more receiving. The 28-yard score was the easiest play he had all day, waiting for Brown's throw to come down and waltzing into the end zone.

Most of the Buffalo joy was saved for Beasley, who had several momentum-changing plays along with his 25-yard touchdown in his first 100-yard game with the Bills and third of his career. The diminutive receiver who grew up in the Dallas area and played at SMU spent his first seven seasons with the Cowboys.

A week after getting criti-

cized for taking a field goal down seven late against New England, embattled Cowboys coach Jason Garrett went for it on fourth down from the Buffalo 6 late in the third quarter. But Prescott's pass to Elliott in the flat wasn't close, skipping in front of the running back.

Settling for field goals didn't help the Cowboys much either. Brett Maher had a 36-yard miss partially blocked by Star Lotulelei on the final of the first half and was wide right from 47 in the third quarter.

INJURIES

Dallas left guard Connor Williams injured a knee and tried to return before being ruled out in the second half. He was just a few weeks removed from arthroscopic



Dallas Cowboys safety Xavier Woods (25) and linebacker Sean Lee (50) defend as Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) reaches the end zone for a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019.

knee surgery.

BILLS MARKS

Brown became the first non-quarterback to throw a TD pass for Buffalo since Fred Jackson 10 years ago. Allen set a franchise record

by accounting for at least two touchdowns in eight consecutive games.

EMPTY STATS

Prescott was 32 of 49 for 355 yards and two touchowns. □

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Trubisky's 3rd TD pass lifts Bears to 24-20 win over Lions

By LARRY LAGE

DETROIT (AP) — Mitchell Trubisky started and closed strong to overcome some shaky decisions and plays in between to keep the Chicago Bears in the NFC playoff picture.

Trubisky threw a go-ahead, 3-yard touchdown pass to David Montgomery with 2:17 left, lifting Chicago to a 24-20 win over the slumping Detroit Lions on Thursday.

The Bears took the lead on the nine-play, 90-yard drive in which Trubisky converted a pair of third downs with 35- and 32-yard passes Anthony Miller.

"He made special throws at special times," coach Matt Nagy said.

Chicago sealed the victory on the ensuing possession with Eddie Jackson's interception.

Rookie quarterback David Blough led Detroit's last drive to the Chicago 26 in the final minute before losing 13 yards on a sack to leave a desperation pass as the only option and Jackson picked off his heave.

The Bears (6-6) have won three of four games after losing four in a row, keeping their postseason hopes alive.

"We put ourselves in a good position to have another big game next week," Trubisky said.

The Lions (3-8-1) have lost five straight for the first time under second-year coach Matt Patricia.

"It's one of the toughest teams I've probably ever been around," said Patricia, a former assistant coach with the New England Patriots. "This team fights like probably no other team I've ever seen."

"We've got to find a way to win."

Detroit led for much of the game despite starting a quarterback it acquired from Cleveland for a swap of seventh-round picks after training camp.

"Watch that team fight and rally behind somebody like that, I think you can tell how much all those men in that room care about each other," Patricia said.



Chicago Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Matthew Stafford was out for a fourth straight game with back and hip injuries and his backup, Jeff Driskel, was limited by a hamstring injury.

Blough, an undrafted player from Purdue, threw a 75-yard TD on his first completion to Kenny Golladay to pull the Lions into a 7-all tie. Blough threw an 8-yard TD pass to Marvin Jones late in the first quarter to put Detroit ahead 14-7.

Trubisky had an 18-yard TD

pass to rookie tight end Jesper Horsted to make it 17-all late in the third quarter. Trubisky finished 29 of 38 with three TDs, matching a season high he also equaled in a win over Detroit earlier this month, for 338 yards and an interception. He got off to a strong start with a 10-yard pass to Allen Robinson and closed the game well enough for Chicago to score more than 20 points for the first time in more than a month.

Blough was 22 of 38 for 280 yards with two TDs and an interception.

"This is what you dream about as a kid," Blough said. "I'm thankful for it all, all the ups and downs."

TRIPPED UP

Chicago cornerback Kyle Fuller may have prevented Detroit from scoring a tiebreaking TD early in the fourth quarter when he stopped J.D. McKissic in the open field on third-and-1. "Probably one of the big

gest plays in the game," Nagy said. "To make a shoestring tackle was an absolute game-changer."

Patricia choose to kick a 24-yard field goal for a 20-17 lead with 10:47 left instead of going for it on fourth-and-1 from the Bears 5.

FLAG DAY

Chicago had 10 penalties for 89 yards and Detroit was flagged nine times for 85 yards.

"If there's a negative to the game, the improvement we need to make is with penalties," Nagy said.

SHOW GOES ON

Brothers Osborne, a country music duo, performed at halftime and the show did not go as planned. Fans were asked to turn on the flashlights on their mobile phones when the lights were turned off at Ford Field. After the lights dimmed, the indoor stadium was illuminated again before going dark following an awkward delay.

The technical difficulties led to the musical artists being on the field longer than expected, forcing players to warm up behind and around an elaborate stage.

Ford Field officials said in a statement that "parts of the stadium lost power due to an outside utility failure. Though it was quickly restored, the sound system transmitter required two minutes to reset and reconnect."

INJURIES

Bears: CB Prince Amukamara went down and walked off the field slowly late in the game after breaking up a pass. Four starters WR Taylor Gabriel (concussion), TE Adam Shaheen (foot), OT Bobby Massie (ankle) and LB Danny Trevathan (elbow) were inactive.

Lions: DT Damon "Snacks" Harrison (knee, calf), CB Rashaan Melvin (ribs) and return specialist Jamal Agnew (ankle) were inactive.

UP NEXT

Bears: Host Dallas on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Lions: Play at Minnesota on Dec. 8. □

Anthony Davis helps Lakers rally in New Orleans return

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Anthony Davis capped a 41-point performance in his return to New Orleans by intercepting Jrue Holiday's inbound pass with 5 seconds left and making a pair of game-sealing free throws, and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to nine games with a 114-110 victory over the Pelicans on Wednesday night.

A packed-in and energetic crowd booed Davis during introductions and virtually every time he handled the ball, only to see him and new teammate LeBron James take over the fourth quarter.

James had 29 points and 11 assists, scoring 15 points in the final period, when Kyle Kuzma also added nine of his 16 points to help the Lakers erase a 10-point deficit.

Holiday had 29 points and 12 assists, and Brandon Ingram had 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans, who dropped their third straight game.

CELTICS 121, NETS 110

BOSTON (AP) — Kemba Walker returned from a neck injury to score a season-high 39 points — to the delight of the crowd that came to taunt the person he replaced — and Boston beat Brooklyn on a night the fans seemed more interested in taunting former Celtics guard Kyrie Irving.

Missing one game after leaving the court on a stretcher wearing a neck brace following a head-to-torso collision with Semi Ojeleye, Walker had 13 points in the third quarter, when Boston scored nine straight to turn a one-point deficit into a 91-83 lead. Jaylen Brown added 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Jayson Tatum had 16 points and nine boards to help the Celtic improved to 7-0 at home.

Garrett Temple scored 22 points, and Joe Harris

had 21 for Brooklyn, which made a season-high 21 of the 56 3-point shots it attempted. Jarrett Allen had 17 points and 14 rebounds, and Spencer Dinwiddie had 16 points and 11 assists. Brooklyn led 83-82 with just over 3 minutes left in the third when the Celtics scored the next nine points before Temple made a 3 to close out the third quarter. Boston led 104-101 in the fourth before scoring 17 of the next 24 points — nine of them from Walker,

The crowd might have bought tickets to heckle Irving on his return, but earlier in the week it was reported that he wouldn't play in the game. Irving did not make the trip, but that didn't slow down the fans who came to let him know how they feel.

ROCKETS 117, HEAT 108

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 34 points, Russell Westbrook had 27 and Houston beat Miami to end a three-game skid. Houston led by double digits for most of this one after the Heat used a 46-point first quarter in a 129-100 rout Nov. 3 in the first meeting between the teams this season.

Daniel House added 23 points, and Westbrook had nine rebounds and seven assists. Tyler Herro led Miami with 22 points, and Kelly Olynyk had 19 with leading scorer Jimmy Butler out with an illness.

76ERS 97, KINGS 91

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid rebounded from the worst game of his career with 33 points and 16 rebounds to lead Philadelphia past Sacramento. Embiid was scoreless Monday night in a 101-96 loss at Toronto. In 32 minutes against the Raptors, the star big man went 0 for 11 from the field, including 0-for-4 from the arc and missed all three of his free throws.

Against the Kings, he scored the first points of the game with an emphatic



New Orleans Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday (11) watches as Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

dunk 23 seconds in and had some key points late in the game to help Philadelphia improve to 8-0 at home. He finished 10 of 19 from the field and 12 of 14 from the free-throw line. Philadelphia rookie Matisse Thybulle had a career-high 15 points, all in the second half.

Buddy Hield scored 22 points for the Kings. They were 1-3 on a four-game trip.

BUCKS 111, HAWKS 102

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 10 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 16 points in his return from injury and Milwaukee won its ninth straight game.

Middleton, who had been out since Nov. 10 with a thigh contusion, didn't start and played 20 minutes.

Former Bucks forward Jabari Parker scored a season-high 33 points for the Hawks and added 14 rebounds. Trae Young scored 29 points as Atlanta fell to 4-14 with its eighth straight loss.

CLIPPERS 121, GRIZZLIES 119

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Montrezl Harrell tipped in Lou Williams' miss with 2.3 seconds left and Los Angeles extended its winning streak to seven games.

Memphis had one more chance to tie or take the lead, but Jaren Jackson Jr.'s 3-point attempt from the right corner was blocked by Maurice Harkless.

Harrell and Williams led the Clippers with 24 points each, and Paul George added 22. Williams also had 13 assists, and Harrell grabbed 10 rebounds. Playing the second night of a back-to-back on the road, Los Angeles forward Kawhi Leonard took the night off to with "injury management" on his left knee. Jonas Valanciunas had 30 points and 16 rebounds for Memphis, both season highs for the center.

TRAIL BLAZERS 136, THUNDER 119

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Damian Lillard had 27 points, Carmelo Anthony added 19 in his home debut for Portland.

Hassan Whiteside had 21 points and 16 rebounds, and the Blazers led by as many as 35 points in their return home after an extended 2-4 trip.

Anthony's dunk early in the fourth quarter gave Portland a 111-79 lead and put the crowd on its feet. When he was subbed out a couple of minutes later, fans chanted "Melo! Melo!" Abdel Nader had 23 points off the bench for Oklahoma City, and Chris Paul finished with 16 points.

RAPTORS 126, KNICKS 98

TORONTO (AP) — Pascal Siakam scored 31 points, OG Anunoby had 13 points and a career-high 12 rebounds and Toronto beat New York for its franchise-record eighth straight

home victory to begin the season.

Fred VanVleet and Terence Davis each scored 15 points to help the Raptors set an NBA record with their 33rd straight home victory over an Atlantic Division opponent.

Julius Randle scored 19 points and Canadian rookie RJ Barrett had 16 for the Knicks.

PACERS 121, JAZZ 102

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Domantas Sabonis and T.J. Warren each scored 23 points and Malcolm Brogdon added 22 to help Indiana beat Utah for its fourth straight victory. Sabonis also had 12 rebounds.

Bojan Bogdanovic had 30 points in his first trip back to Indiana since leaving the team as a free agent last summer. Donovan Mitchell added 26 points, and Rudy Gobert had 14 points and 13 rebounds after missing the previous two games with a sprained left ankle.

WIZARDS 140, SUNS 132

PHOENIX (AP) — Bradley Beal scored 35 points, Thomas Bryant added 23 and Washington held on to beat Phoenix.

Washington bounced back from a 13-point loss at Denver a night earlier by shooting 57% from the field and making 19 of 35 3-pointers. Devin Booker led the Suns with 27 points. Phoenix fell below .500 — at 8-9 — for the first time this season. □



New York Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist (30) stops a shot on goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Carolina Hurricanes Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, in New York. The Rangers won 3-2.

Continued from Page 18

FLAMES 3, SABRES 2, OT

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Elias Lindholm scored on a wraparound 1:17 into overtime to lift Calgary over Buffalo.

Matthew Tkachuk had a goal and set up the winner for the Flames, still playing without embattled coach Bill Peters. TJ Brodie also had a goal and an assist, and David Rittich stopped 34 shots as Calgary improved to 2-0-1 in its past three games, and with associate coach Geoff Ward behind the bench.

Peters has been accused of using racists slurs against a Nigerian-born player 10 years ago while the two were in the minors with the Chicago Blackhawks. Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour on Wednesday backed another former player's allegation that Peters kicked and punched players on the bench during his time as Carolina coach.

Peters acknowledged using offensive language in dealing with forward Akim Aliu in writing a letter of apology addressed to Flames general manager Brad Treliving, and obtained by TSN, a Canadian sports cable network. Without specifically referencing the words he used, Peters wrote his comments to Aliu were the source of both anger and disappointment in the letter post-

ed on Twitter during the third period. Peters added the incident was made in a moment of frustration and did not reflect his personal values.

Peters said he regretted the incident and apologized to anyone negatively affected by it.

The letter was released while Peters is away from the team as the Flames and the NHL conduct an investigation into the matter.

Jimmy Vesey and Victor Olofsson scored for the Sabres, who dropped to 2-8-3 in their past 13 games — and after starting the season 9-2-1. Linus Ullmark made 26 saves.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, PREDATORS 3, OT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Max Pacioretty tied it with less than a second left in regulation and Paul Stastny scored at 1:52 of overtime to give Vegas a comeback victory over Nashville.

Mark Stone, Reilly Smith and Pacioretty each had a goal and an assist for the Golden Knights, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Malcolm Subban made 31 saves for his first win of the season.

Mikael Granlund and Matt Duchene both contributed a goal and an assist for the Predators. Ryan Ellis also scored and Roman Josi added two assists.

In overtime, Nate Schmidt intercepted Calle Jarnk-

rok's pass and went in on a 2-on-0 break on Nashville goalie Juuse Saros. Schmidt fed a cross-ice pass to Stastny, who buried a one-timer for the winner.

RANGERS 3, HURRICANES 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Adam Fox had a goal and an assist, Henrik Lundqvist stopped 41 shots and New York held off Carolina.

Mika Zibanejad scored in his return after missing 13 games with an upper body injury. Brendan Smith also had a goal and Artemi Panarin added two assists to help the Rangers build a 3-0 lead in the first period and improve to 9-4-1 in their last 14 games.

Panarin has at least one point in 15 of the last 16 games.

Ryan Dzingel and Warren Foegele scored for the Hurricanes, who had won two straight. Petr Mrazek finished with 22 saves.

MAPLE LEAFS 6, RED WINGS 0

DETROIT (AP) — Andreas Johnsson had two goals and an assist, and Toronto routed skidding Detroit for its third straight win under new coach Sheldon Keefe. Frederik Andersen made 25 saves for his 17th career shutout.

Tyson Barrie and William Nylander each had a goal and an assist. John Tavares and Travis Dermott also scored, and Ilya Mikheyev and Morgan Rielly added two assists apiece. □

Aliu calls Flames coach's apology 'misleading, insincere'



In this April 7, 2012, file photo, Calgary Flames' Akim Aliu, a Nigerian-born Canadian, celebrates his goal during first period NHL hockey action against the Anaheim Ducks, in Calgary, Alberta.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Akim Aliu is not happy with the apology Calgary Flames coach Bill Peters issued for a racial slur he allegedly used when both were in the minors 10 years ago. The former NHL player released his own statement Thursday on Twitter, saying he found Peters' statement a day earlier acknowledging that he used offensive language to be "misleading, insincere and concerning."

Aliu said he has accepted an invitation from the NHL to discuss the situation and would not comment further until after the meeting.

Peters issued a letter Wednesday night to multiple media outlets, apologizing to the Flames and general manager Brad Treliving. The letter did not mention the Nigerian-born Aliu or specify the words Peter used. He called it an "isolated and immediately regrettable incident."

The statement drew criticism on social media.

Former NHL player Georges Laraque tweeted: "The @NHLFlames and the @NHL can now finally conclude their investigation and fire him, what more can they need after this...?"

Aliu tweeted Monday that Peters directed racial slurs toward him when both were with the American Hockey League's Rock-

ford IceHogs, the Chicago Blackhawks' top farm team, in 2009-10. Aliu, who was born in Nigeria but raised in Ukraine and Canada, said Peters "dropped the N bomb several times" because he didn't like the player's choice of music.

Peters did not coach the Flames on Wednesday night when Calgary won in Buffalo against the Sabres. Afterward, Treliving said the Flames' investigation was ongoing.

The Flames were scheduled to be off Thursday before returning to practice Friday in Calgary. Their next game is Saturday against the Ottawa Senators.

New Jersey teammates Wayne Simmonds and P.K. Subban, who are both black, were asked about the Aliu-Peters situation before the Devils faced the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night.

"I can guarantee you every single black hockey player has been called a racial slur at some point in their career, whether it's been younger or older," Simmonds said. "It's something people don't like to talk about because it makes them uncomfortable. In light of this coming out, hopefully this can do some good for the hockey community and shed some light on it." Simmonds was part of a racist incident in 2011 when a fan threw a banana on the ice during his shootout attempt during a preseason game in London, Ontario, when he was playing for the Philadelphia Flyers. The Aliu-Peters incident raises its own set of concerns, Simmonds said.

"You never want to hear things like that," he said. "Those things are extremely discouraging for people of African descent and of color. Something like that happens to you and (the) one person that's doing it to you controls kind of your destiny, it's definitely something that needs to be explored. □

AP Interview: Boxing champ Klitschko proud to be Ukrainian

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

NYON, Switzerland (AP) —

As world heavyweight boxing champions for more than a decade, Wladimir Klitschko and his brother Vitali helped establish Ukraine on the sports map.

Now that Ukraine and its capital city of Kyiv — where Vitali is mayor — are part of the United States' daily news agenda, learning about the eastern European country's place in the world is not so difficult.

"Not anymore," Wladimir Klitschko told The Associated Press in an interview at the home of European soccer body UEFA, where he is a trustee of the group's children's charity foundation. "There is no doubt that at least people will know, in the U.S. especially."

The younger Klitschko brother visited Switzerland after spending time this month in New York, where rolling cable news coverage is repeating a theme that corruption is rife in his home country.

"With something bad, there is also something good," said Klitschko, who projects positive thinking and developed a Swiss university course in innovative management. "It is much more fun to solve a challenge than to have a problem."

Klitschko, a gold medalist at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, celebrated Ukraine — like the national soccer team qualifying for the 2020 European Championship.

"Have you seen what Shevchenko has done for the team?" he enthused. Like Klitschko, Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko is a beloved athlete at home trying to give something back to fans.

"Ukrainians, as a nation, we are super-talented," Klitschko said, praising hit HBO drama Chernobyl for showing the toughness of its people. "We are well educated, we are serving society."

The Klitschko Foundation has involved more than 1.8 million children and youths in Ukraine since being created in 2003, the year Wladimir's first world title reign ended. He regained versions of the heavyweight belt in 2006 and stayed unbeaten for nine more years.

One of its established projects, to equip schools with sports equipment, was among 42 schemes that won UEFA Foundation for Children funding this month worth a combined \$5.2 million.

"We are trying to motivate," Klitschko said. "You need to be active. You need to



In this Saturday, April 29, 2017 file photo, British boxer Anthony Joshua, left, fights Ukrainian boxer Wladimir Klitschko for Joshua's IBF and the vacant WBA Super World and IBO heavyweight titles at Wembley stadium in London. Joshua won with an 11th round stoppage.

Associated Press

be the driving force in your community, in the school."

When Klitschko talks about Ukrainian leaders, a common thread emerges linking men born in the 1970s in the former Soviet Union.

He and Shevchenko are 43. So is the co-founder of WhatsApp, Jan Koum. Mayor Vitali Klitschko is 48. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the former comic actor and producer who has an unwitting central role in the U.S. presiden-

tial impeachment process, soon turns 42.

Klitschko noted: "(We're) trying to bring more for this talented nation."

He is cautious, however, when asked if a nation of 44 million people prefers public leaders they already admired in another field. "The trust needs to be stronger," Klitschko said. "But trust comes only with time and corruption needs to be reduced. We probably cannot get rid of it. Evil and

good is always going to be neighbors."

He supports closer ties with the European Union and expressed admiration for leadership values in Germany, where both brothers often fought title bouts.

It's been more than 2½ years since his final fight — an 11th-round loss to Anthony Joshua in front of 90,000 people at Wembley Stadium, a modern record crowd for a heavyweight contest. □

European Tour lets players wear shorts for first time

MALELANE, South Africa (AP) — Golfers were allowed to wear shorts during a European Tour event for the first time on Thursday because of sweltering temperatures.

The decision to relax rules at the 2020 season-opening Alfred Dunhill Championship in South Africa was made after discussions between players, European Tour CEO Keith Pelley, and tournament host Johann Rupert. It applies for this event only.

Temperatures are predicted to reach 40 degrees Celsius (104 F) over the next few days at the Leopard Creek Country Club, which borders the Kruger Park

wildlife reserve in northern South Africa.

"We felt that in this situation it was a good move," said the European Tour's David Williams, the tournament director. "The temperatures will increase as the week goes on, which is uncomfortable and could be a health issue for the players. "A lot of players were concerned about it. In these temperatures it can be pretty uncomfortable out there in trousers."

In 2016, the European Tour allowed players to wear shorts for practice rounds and pro-ams but not tournament play. The U.S. PGA Tour brought in the same policy this year.



South Africa's Brandon Grace lines up a shot during play in the European Tour in Malelane, South Africa, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019.

Associated Press

Four-time major winner Ernie Els said allowing shorts this week was "common sense" and hoped it wouldn't be the last time in

a tournament.

"It's going to get up to 40 degrees here and it's the right thing to do," Els said. "It's been talked about for

so long on all of the tours around the world ... I think this could be a game-changer for golf which could end up enhancing the product."

When the U.S. PGA Tour announced in February it was allowing shorts for practice and pro-ams, it said it noted the opinions of leading players.

Asked for his view on allowing shorts, Tiger Woods said: "I would love it. We play in some of the hottest climates on the planet."

Rory McIlroy said: "It makes the guys a lot more comfortable. I don't think there's anything wrong with professional golfers showing the lower half of their leg." □

U.S. proposes rules to vet all telecoms-related purchases

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP)—The Department of Commerce has proposed requiring case-by-case approvals of all purchases of telecommunications equipment in a move likely to hit major Chinese suppliers like Huawei. The plan issued Tuesday follows President Donald Trump's order in May declaring a national emergency and restricting purchases by U.S. companies of telecoms equipment that might be considered a security threat. It calls for a period of public comment before it is implemented.

That order did not name specific countries or companies but was thought to target Chinese suppliers such as Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corp. It gave the Commerce Department 150 days to come up with the regulations issued this week.

The May 15 order by Trump said foreign "adversaries" were exploiting information and communications technology and services, or ICTS, for espionage and other cybercrimes. It gave the commerce secretary the authority to prohibit or "mitigate" any purchases of telecommunications equipment and services made after that date, "if such transactions pose: an undue risk of sabotage or subversion of ICTS in the



In this Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019, photo, visitors look at the surveillance cameras and services provided by China's telecoms equipment giant Huawei on display at the China Public Security Expo in Shenzhen, China's Guangdong province.

Associated Press

United States; an undue risk of catastrophic effects on the security and resiliency of critical infrastructure or the digital economy... or an unacceptable risk to national security or to the security or safety of U.S. persons."

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement that the proposed rules "demonstrate our commitment to securing the digital economy, while also delivering on President Trump's commitment to our digital infrastructure."

Decisions on transactions

would use a "case-by-case, fact specific approach" and refer to assessments by the Secretary of Homeland Security and Director of National Intelligence.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The U.S. government blacklisted Huawei in May, requiring U.S. companies to obtain government approvals for sales to the company.

That would disrupt Huawei's access to processor chips and other technology. Its smartphones would lose

Google maps and other services, making it hard to compete.

The Trump administration on Nov. 19 extended for 90 days a limited reprieve on such technology sales, the second such extension.

Despite sanctions, numerous loopholes have been exploited. U.S. companies, for example, continue to supply Huawei with chips made outside the United States.

The May executive order was based on the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act,

which had never before been applied to an entire commercial sector. It usually is used to freeze assets of designated terrorists and drug traffickers and impose embargoes on hostile foreign governments.

Huawei, the world's biggest supplier of network gear, has been deemed a danger in U.S. national security circles for the better part of a decade. The company denies such allegations and insists that it would abide by promises to protect its customers' data and services.

U.S. justice and intelligence officials have presented no evidence of any Huawei equipment in the U.S. or elsewhere being compromised by backdoors installed by the manufacturer to facilitate espionage by Beijing. Huawei vehemently denies involvement in Chinese spying.

But all major U.S. wireless carriers and internet providers swore off Chinese-made equipment after a 2012 report by the House Intelligence Committee said Huawei and ZTE, China's No. 2 telecoms equipment company, should be excluded as enablers of Beijing-directed espionage.

Trump signed a bill in 2018 barring the U.S. government and its contractors from using equipment from the Chinese suppliers. □



In this Jan. 9, 2018, file photo, people walk by the Panasonic booth during CES International in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

By YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese electronics manufacturer Panasonic Corp. is abandoning the semiconductor

business with the sale of its last business in that sector to a Taiwanese company. Panasonic said Thursday it was transferring the semiconductor business oper-

Panasonic leaves semiconductor business with Taiwan sale

ated by Panasonic Semiconductor Solutions Co. to Nuvoton Technology Corp.

In recent years, Panasonic has sold its semiconductor plants in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Terms were not disclosed for Thursday's move, set to be completed next year. Panasonic's chipmaking has been struggling in recent years amid competition from cheaper rivals in South Korea and the rest of Asia.

Japanese media reports

said the recent U.S.-China trade war, which has slowed sales in China, added to those pressures. The move highlights Panasonic and other Japanese electronics makers' efforts to focus on more lucrative businesses.

"The competitive environment surrounding the semiconductor business has become extremely severe due to aggressive expansion of competitors, huge investments in the focused area and industry reorganization,"

Panasonic said in a statement.

The company said it believed Nuvoton appreciates the strengths of Panasonic's technology and will steer the business to stable growth.

Panasonic has also transferred another part of its semiconductor business to Japanese rival Rohm Co., scheduled to be completed this year.

Some Japanese companies remain in the business, including Toshiba Corp., Fujitsu and Sony Corp. □

Holiday stress: Amazon, others under gun for 1-day delivery

By JOSEPH PISANI

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—This year, holiday stress may take on a whole new meaning for online retailers.

Amazon, Walmart and others have promised to deliver more of their orders within 24 hours of customers clicking on "Buy."

The coming weeks will be the first test of whether they can make that happen during the busy holiday shopping season, when onslaughts of orders and bad weather can lay waste to even the best delivery plans.

It's an expensive feat that requires not just additional planes and vehicles, but more workers and reams of data to help retailers prepare and predict what shoppers may buy.

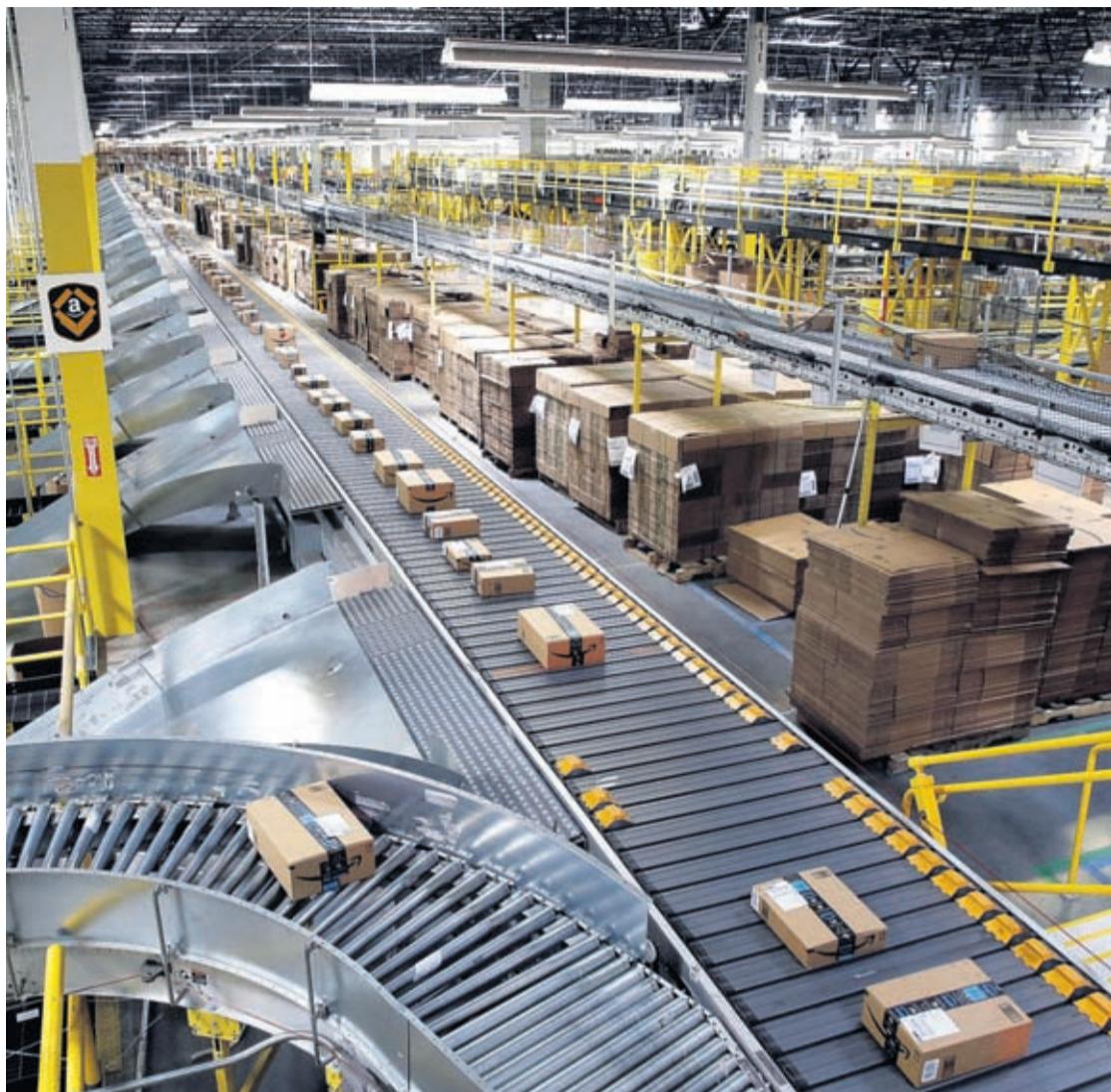
And the stakes to deliver on time are high. A late package can damage a retailer's reputation, since shoppers tend to blame them, even if the late arrival is the fault of the delivery company.

"The store made the promise," said Suketu Gandhi, partner in the digital transformation practice at consulting firm A.T. Kearney.

Amazon learned that six years ago, when UPS and FedEx were crippled by bad weather and last-minute online shopping, causing millions of packages to be late for Christmas. Since then, the online shopping giant has been building its own delivery network to give it more control over when and how its packages are delivered. It has leased jets, built package-sorting hubs at airports and launched a program that lets contractors start businesses delivering packages in vans.

Others are feeling the pressure to keep up with Amazon. When the company introduced two-day shipping about 14 years ago, shoppers expected the same from other stores. That appears to be happening again.

"Customers love two-day delivery," said Mark Cohen, a retail studies professor at New York's Columbia Busi-



In this Aug. 3, 2017, file photo, packages ride on a conveyor system at an Amazon fulfillment center in Baltimore.

Associated Press

ness School. "But they like one day better."

Smaller retailers, however, will probably be hurt trying to pay for quicker shipping, said Cohen, who used to be an executive at Sears Canada.

The push for even speedier delivery comes after Amazon announced in April that it would cut its delivery for Prime members to one day from two. Walmart and Best Buy followed with their own announcements. Many smaller retailers are also trying to deliver quicker, according to UPS, which said it will have 11 more jets flying this year to keep up.

But many eyes will be on Amazon this holiday season and whether it will keep its delivery promises. That's because 42% of all online sales this holiday season is expected to go to the Seattle company, according to consulting firm Bain & Co. It says it's up to the challenge.

"We deliver for our customers every day and are confident in our ability to serve

customers this holiday season," Amazon said in a statement.

Amazon already had a chance to test out one-day shipping during its Prime Day event in July, which has become one of the company's busiest shopping events.

It has another advantage: lots of cash. Amazon expects to spend about \$1.5 billion during the holiday season, partly to move items closer to customers and pay for more worker shifts. It says the cost is worth it, since it's already seeing customers spend more because of the switch to one-

day delivery.

The spending starts even before a package hits the road. Retailers are using machine learning technology to predict what shoppers may buy and then placing those items in stores and warehouses closer to them, said Anne Goodchild, the director of the Supply Chain Transportation and Logistics Center at the University of Washington.

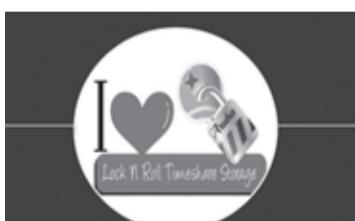
Amazon has more than 100 warehouses around the country to store, pack and ship goods. Walmart is using warehouses and stores near customers to pack

next-day orders. Best Buy has opened warehouses near the heavily populated cities of Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. Target says more than 90% of online orders are packed at stores.

While Target doesn't promise next-day delivery, it says that half of its two-day deliveries are showing up at customers' doorsteps the next day. It's also offering same-day delivery from stores for an extra fee and, like other retailers, it offers an option for customers to buy online and pick up from a store.

Shippers say they are ready for the influx of packages. UPS, which says next-day air shipments jumped 24% in the most recent quarter, has built more package sortation hubs that will help it process an additional 400,000 pieces per hour. FedEx will again be offering online retailers a way to ship next day or in two days when orders come in late afternoon or night. And the U.S. Postal Service says it will be delivering packages in more cities on Sunday, a change it typically does during the holidays.

But cities may not be prepared for the rushed deliveries. Goodchild said places like New York and Seattle are not built to deal with the vans and cars stopping to deliver, causing traffic and congestion. "That's where we see pressure," she said. □

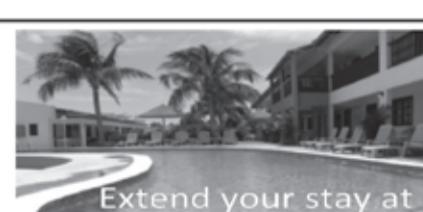


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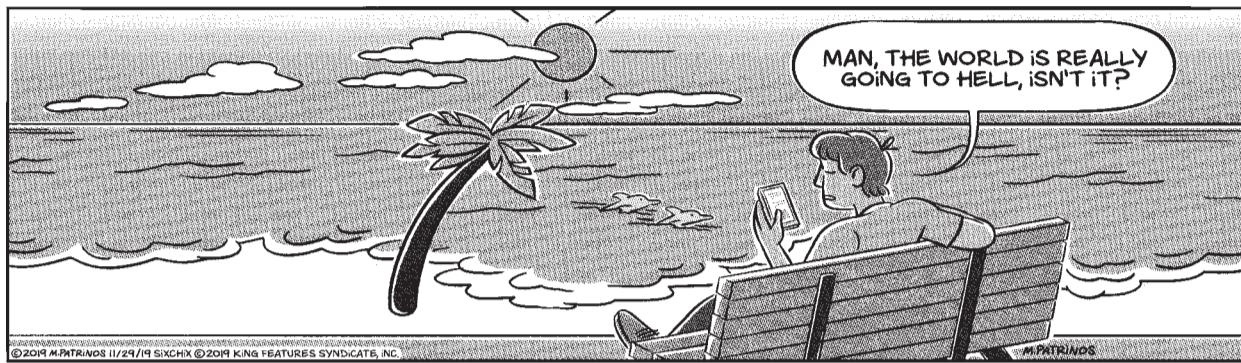
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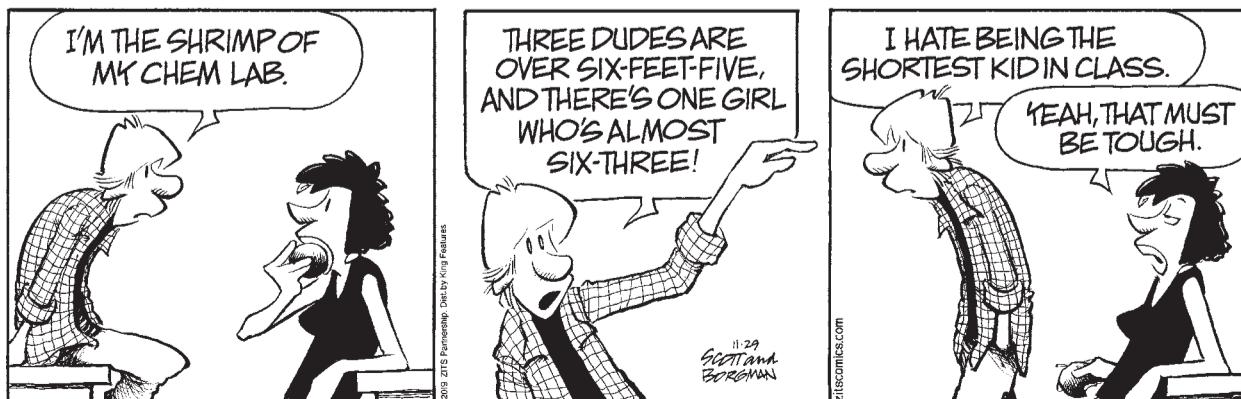
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2	1	7	6				
6								3	
5							8		
9				7					5
1									4
2							7		9
						8			3
							7		
4									
	1	3	6	9					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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11/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	1	3	6	4	2	7	8	9	
2	4	7	9	5	8	1	6	3	
9	8	6	3	7	1	4	5	2	
4	5	9	7	6	3	8	2	1	
6	7	8	2	1	5	3	9	4	
3	2	1	8	9	4	6	7	5	
1	9	4	5	8	7	2	3	6	
8	3	5	4	2	6	9	1	7	
7	6	2	1	3	9	5	4	8	

Yesterday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/29/19

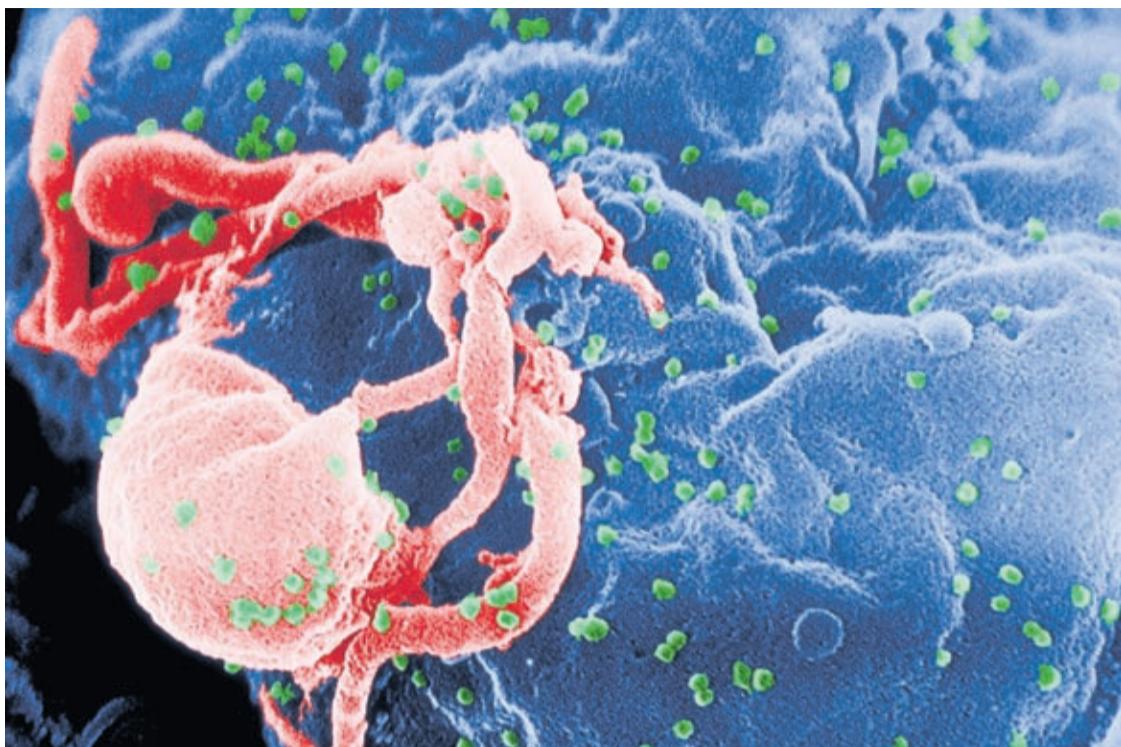
Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	Y	A	ABNER	SASS
BUNS		GEO	DE	ECHO
CLOP	RAVES	PHIL		
EXUBERANT	TYP	REED	LOU	
SHIRTS	STEAMERS			
TALES	WAIST GUM			
AVID	DINES TYPE			
TEA	GORES REPEL			
ENDANGER	HOSTEL			
CUE	SEAT			
CHIC	ABSURDITY			
YORE	RAPID FOES			
SLOP	ELATE YEAH			
TENT	DETER DRY			

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11/29/19

- 3 Yummy
4 Start of the weekend; abbr.
5 Of Laos or China
6 Mai tai ingredient
7 Gratuity
8 Caviar source
9 Smells
10 Cookware items
11 Upon a time...
12 off; irritates
14 Regret strongly
19 Counts calories
22 Paper sack
25 Cold sore sites
27 Statistics
28 Grown-up
29 Set __; leave shore
30 Brown or Baylor
31 Not as ruddy
33 Clothed
34 Mr. Holbrook
36 Bunks & berths
38 Ring-necked __, Beatles song
39 Dorothy's dog
41 Metal used for nails
42 Defective cars
44 Football & tennis
45 Play on words
47 Melodies
48 Beige
49 Pal
50 Part of a door latch
53 Rental car agency
54 Jay, once of "The Tonight Show"
56 Even score
57 so forth; etc.
59 Author Mine's initials



This undated photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a scanning electron micrograph of multiple round bumps of the HIV-1 virus on a cell surface.

Associated Press

Study: For babies born with HIV, start treatment right away

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—When babies are born with HIV, starting treatment within hours to days is better than waiting even the few weeks to months that's the norm in many countries, researchers reported Wednesday.

The findings, from a small but unique study in Botswana, could influence care in Africa and other regions hit hard by the virus. They also might offer a clue in scientists' quest for a cure.

The Harvard-led team found super early treatment limits how HIV takes root in a newborn's body, shrinking the "reservoir" of virus that hides out, ready to rebound if those youngsters ever stop their medications.

"We don't think the current intervention is itself curative, but it sets the stage" for future attempts, said Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, who co-authored the study.

Giving pregnant women a cocktail of anti-HIV drugs can prevent them from spreading the virus to their unborn children, a step that has dramatically reduced the number of babies born with the virus worldwide. Still, some 300 to 500 infants

are estimated to be infected every day in sub-Saharan Africa.

Doctors have long known that treating babies in the first weeks to months of life is important, because their developing immune systems are especially vulnerable to HIV.

But an infant dubbed the "Mississippi baby" raised a critical question: Should treatment start even earlier? The girl received a three-drug combination within 30 hours of her birth in July 2010, highly unusual for the time. Her family quit treatment when she was a

toddler — yet her HIV remained in remission for a remarkable 27 months before she relapsed and restarted therapy.

The Botswana study was one of several funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health after doctors learned of the Mississippi baby, to further explore very early treatment.

The findings are encouraging, said Dr. Deborah Persaud, a pediatric HIV specialist at Johns Hopkins University who wasn't involved with the Botswana study but helped evaluate the Mississippi baby. □

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How to reach us!

A map of downtown Aruba showing the location of Bondia and Today offices. The map includes labels for Weststraat, Scheepstraat, Caya G.F. Beliso Cross, Caya G.F., Royal Palace Plaza, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Highrise Hotel, and Westerstraat. A magnifying glass is focused on the Bondia logo on the map.

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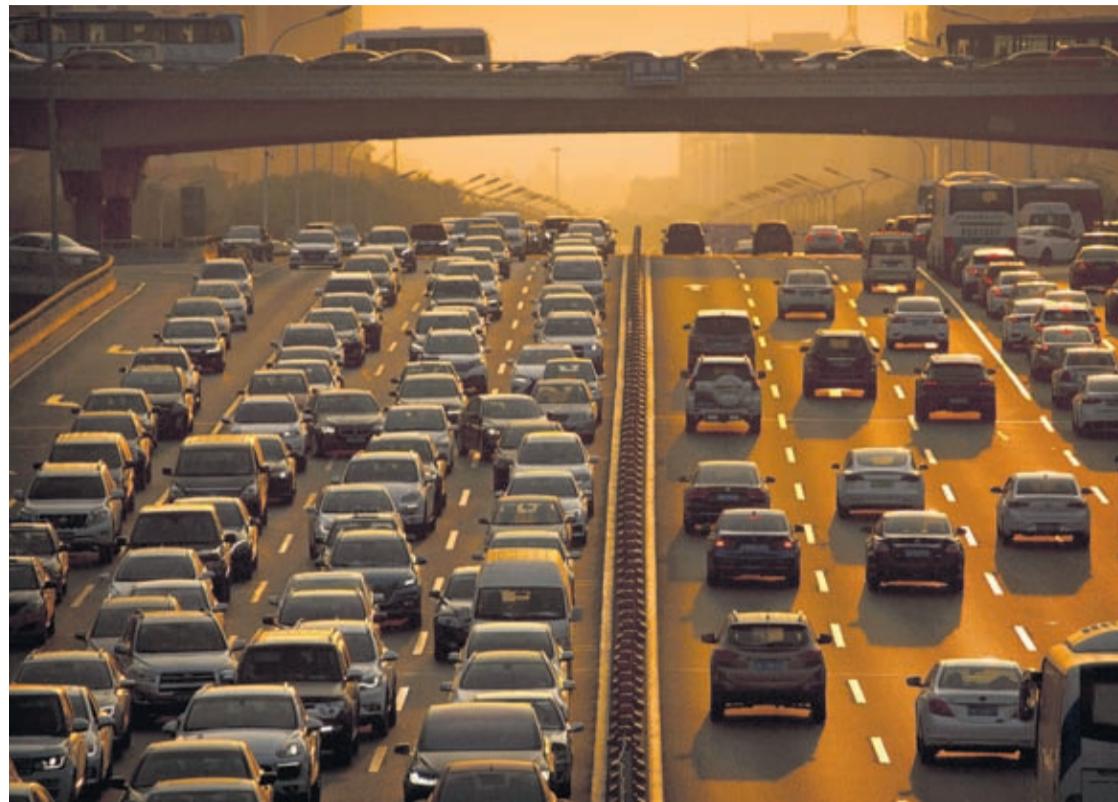
U.N.: 'Quick wins' needed to keep climate goals within reach

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Countries need to begin making steep cuts to their greenhouse gas emissions immediately or risk missing the targets they've agreed for limiting global warming, with potentially dire consequences, senior United Nations officials said Tuesday. A report by the U.N. Environment Program, published days before governments gather in Madrid for an annual meeting on climate change, showed the amount of planet-heating gases being pumped into the atmosphere hitting a new high last year, despite a near-global pledge to reduce them.

Man-made greenhouse gas emissions rose in 2018 to 55.3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, according to the U.N.'s annual 'emissions gap' report. While much of the increase came from emerging economies such as China and India, some of those emissions are the result of manufacturing outsourced from developed countries.

"We need quick wins to reduce emissions as much as possible in 2020," said the agency's chief, Inger An-



In this Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 file photo, commuters make their way along an expressway during rush hour in Beijing.

Associated Press

dersen. "We need to catch up on the years in which we procrastinated."

To stop average global temperatures from increasing by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century compared with pre-industrial times, worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse

gases will have to drop by 7.6% each year in the coming decade, the agency said. Scientists say the 1.5C target — contained in the 2015 Paris climate accord — would avert some of the more extreme changes in global weather patterns predicted if temperatures rise further.

"What we are looking at is

really that emissions need to go down by 55 percent by 2030," said John Christensen, lead author and director of the UNEP-Danish Technology Institute Partnership.

Even the less ambitious goal of capping global warming at 2C (3.6 F) would require annual emissions cuts of 2.7% between 2020 and

2030, UNEP said.

That currently seems unlikely.

At present, national pledges would leave the world 3.2 degrees Celsius (5.8 Fahrenheit) warmer by 2100 than pre-industrial times, with dramatic consequences for life on Earth, the U.N. agency said. Getting the world back on track to 1.5C would require a fivefold increase in measures pledged so far, it calculated.

Last week, UNEP published a separate report, which found that countries are planning to extract more than twice the amount of fossil fuels from the ground than can be burned in 2030 if the 1.5C target is to be met.

This includes countries such as Norway, which touts its green credentials while it continues to drill for oil in the North Sea.

Officials appealed to governments that have already laid out targets for reducing their emissions to see if they can do more, and insisted that industries like power, transport, building and shipping can find opportunities to lower their emissions too. □



Kjetil Wormnes, automation and robotics system engineer, poses with the Space Rover after a training exercise of the European Space Agency, ESA, in Katwijk, near The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

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European Space Agency gets more funds, also for Moon mission

MADRID (AP) — The 22 member states of the European Space agency pledged Thursday to boost their funding to support more missions and research projects, including a new generation of satellites to monitor climate change. The agency's director-general, Jan Woerner, said at the conclusion two-day ministerial meeting in Seville, Spain, that member states pledged a record three-year budget of 12.5 billion euros (\$13.7 million) plus an additional 1.9 billion euros to cover operational costs and basic research in years four and five.

"14.4 billion euros. For me it is surprise. It is even more than I proposed," said Woerner.

"We have taken on some

ambitious projects." Woerner said that "climate change is a strong driver" in a bigger-than-expected funding boost for Europe's Copernicus Earth-observation satellites.

"Copernicus is now the world's leading Earth-observation project," he said. "This shows all the support for an awareness of our planet, and I think it is good because taxpayers are asking (governments) to do something and you can only do something if you know what to do."

Spain's Science Minister Pedro Duque added that climate research is also where industry wants to be. Madrid is hosting the United Nations global climate meeting from Dec. 2-13.

"We have the most ad-

vanced set of Earth observation satellites flying, so everyone in every industry wants to be involved in developing the top technology because this is a place where European companies can get ahead of companies in the rest of the world," Duque said.

Other missions getting backing included sending the first European astronaut to the Moon, the building of a space shuttle and parts of a planned lunar space station, researching black holes, and safety projects to remove space debris and detect asteroids. Germany will be largest single funder, with 22.9 percent of the total.

"For me, this ministerial (meeting) has one very clear message. □

Philip Pullman's latest book is adventure for an anxious age

By JILL LAWLESS

LONDON (AP) — The line between fantasy and reality is blurry in the world of Philip Pullman. Which, he thinks, is how it should be. The British author's latest book, "The Secret Commonwealth," is set in a world of mystery, magic, witches and daemons — as well as untrustworthy politicians, manipulative charmers and fake news. "If you're interested in the world, the world is bound to affect what you write," Pullman says.

"The Secret Commonwealth" brings back the indomitable Lyra, whom millions of readers have followed in four previous books from infancy through an adventure-filled adolescence — and now into troubled young adulthood. In the latest book, Lyra's studies at Oxford University and interrupted by a personal crisis and a journey in search of mysterious Central Asian roses and their dangerous power.

It's a rollicking adventure with a philosophical undertow, set in a fantastical universe. But it's also shadowed by the specter of current events.

Like his heroine, Pullman is troubled by the world around him. A chat with the 72-year-old author inevitably turns to Brexit, as many conversations in Britain do these days. Pullman thinks Britain's decision to leave the European Union is a big mistake. He considers ex-Prime Minister David Cameron a "complacent fool" for calling the 2016 referendum on the country's EU membership.

Like many people looking at the state of politics on both sides of the Atlantic, he worries about "the decay of truth ... the idea that nothing is real, nothing is true, life is a tissue of improbable lies spun over nothingness."

"You can say anything, and if you say it with enough effrontery, you can get away with it," Pullman told The

Associated Press from his home in Oxford.

"We see this very clearly in Donald Trump and in Boris Johnson. And that's a very dangerous state of affairs. If you allow the idea to develop that it doesn't really matter what you say because no one will believe it anyway, we're on very shaky ground."

Questions about truth, lies and the limits of knowledge ripple through "The Secret Commonwealth," the second volume in a planned trilogy "The Book of Dust," and a follow-up to the three-volume saga "His Dark Materials."

"His Dark Materials" introduced the world to Lyra, an imaginative, unmanageable child being raised by scholars of Oxford's Jordan College.

The world of the books is a familiar-yet-uncanny blend of old-fashioned technology — gas lights, airships — and advanced science, of everyday worries and fantastical creatures including witches and armored bears. In Pullman's most striking act of imagination, every human has an inseparable animal soul mate known as a daemon (pronounced demon).

Like its predecessors, "The Secret Commonwealth" brims with perilous trips to far-flung locales, including Geneva, Prague and Istanbul. But there is also a new, adult, sense of unease. Lyra is no longer a child but a troubled young adult who finds herself estranged from her daemon Pantalaimon — effectively at war with herself.

"If we are estranged temporarily or permanently from part of ourselves, it's a terrible situation to be in," Pullman said. It's also one many people who have made a rocky transition from adolescence into adulthood will recognize.

The first volume of "His Dark Materials" was published in 1995, so Pullman is on his second generation of readers. Reviewing the



In this Thursday May 16, 2019 file photo, author Philip Pullman with his knighthood following an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London.

Associated Press

new book in The Guardian, University College London English professor John Mullan said that "Pullman seems to be writing for those who read the HDM novels as children, but are children no longer." He called it "a book for getting older with."

It rankles with Pullman that because of publishing industry categories his work is categorized as children's literature. Such has been the success of the series — 17.5 million copies sold around the world — that Pullman says he is "quite often asked to sign a book for somebody's little baby that they've just named Lyra."

"I always sign it 'For the real Lyra,'" he said.

As she faces a personal crisis, the book also pitches Lyra into conflict with an oppressive religious hierarchy, the Magisterium, which has an intense interest in those mysterious Central Asian roses.

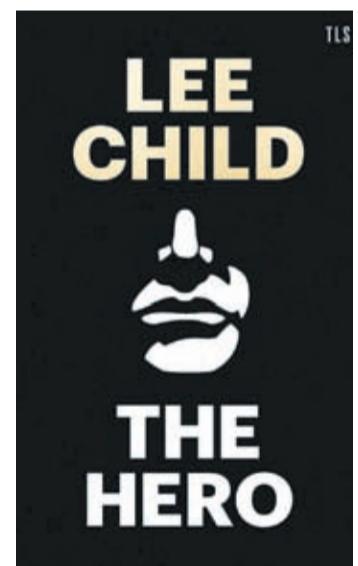
Pullman is an atheist, and his unflattering depiction of religious authority has drawn criticism in the past from some Christian groups. His books have been pulled from some Catholic school library shelves in Canada and the United States over the years.

Pullman remains convinced that "when religious power acquires political power, terrible things happen." □

Author Lee Child explores origins of hero concept

Associated Press

"The Hero," a non-fiction essay by author Lee Child, opens with Child looking at language and how words have different meanings over the space of time. Child also asks the question of who was the first person to initiate a particular word or phrase and have that definition mean the same for everyone. As time passed, people began to tell each other stories. The stories probably were basic at first and then over time heroic traits were added to keep the audience engaged with the tale. The works of Homer saw a hero as a warrior who approached everything with a sense of honor, kind of like the Klingons in "Star Trek." Today, a hero can be described as a popular athlete or someone who does the right thing under difficult circumstances. How did that change occur? Child writes popular and intriguing thrillers and his talent for compelling



This cover image released by TLS shows "The Hero," by Lee Child. By JEFF AYERS
Associated Press

prose isn't limited to fiction. He delivers an interesting premise and backs up his hypothesis with data and personal insight. What this book lacks in page count more than compensates in a thought-provoking discussion of the origins of language, storytelling and what makes all of us human. □



This image released by Lionsgate shows Katherine Langford, from left, Toni Collette, Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Johnson, Michael Shannon, Riki Lindholm and Jaeden Lieberher in a scene from "Knives Out."

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NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4

Knives Out
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 5:45 | 8:35
SAT-SUN 2:55 | 5:45 | 8:35

QUEEN & SLIM
DANIEL CRAIG | CHRIS EVANS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN
EDWARD NORTON | BRUCE WILLIS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:50
SAT-SUN 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50

FROZEN II
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30
FRI 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30 | 10:00
SAT 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30 | 10:00
SUN 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30

21 BRIDGES
CHADWICK BOSEMAN | J.K. SIMMONS
MON-FRI 6:00 | 8:20
FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40
SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

CHARLIE'S ANGELS
KRISTEN STEWART | NAOMI SCOTT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
PBP MON-FRI 6:45 | 9:20

TERMINATOR DARK FATE
LINDA HAMILTON | ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
PBP MON-SUN 9:10

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THE COURIER, DARK WATERS, WAVES

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NEW THIS WEEK!

CXC
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00

PBP
MON-THU 5:25 | 7:50
FRI 5:25 | 7:50 | 10:15
SAT 3:00 | 5:25 | 7:50 | 10:15
SUN 3:00 | 5:25 | 7:50

PBP
MON-FRI 4:25
SAT-SUN 2:05 | 4:25
SPANISH

FORD v FERRARI
CHRISTIAN BALE | MATT DAMON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
PBP MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:20
SAT-SUN 2:35 | 5:50

MALEFICENT: MISTRESS OF EVIL
ANGELINA JOLIE | ELLE FANNING
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
PBP MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:10
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:40 | 6:10

Review: In 'Knives Out,' a whodunit for the Trump era

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

Rian Johnson's "Knives Out" unravels not just a good old-fashioned murder mystery but the very fabric of the whodunit, pulling at loose threads until it has intricately, devilishly woven together something new and exceedingly delightful.

For all the detective tales that dot television screens, the Agatha Christie-styled whodunit has gone curiously absent from movie theaters. The nostalgia-driven "Murder on Orient Express" (2017), popular as it was, didn't do much to dispel the idea that the genre has essentially moved into retirement, content to sit out its days in a warm puffy armchair, occasionally dusting itself off for a remake.

But Johnson has since his 2005 neo-noir debut "Brick" shown a rare cunning for enlivening old genres with densely plotted deconstruction. He makes very clever movies ("Looper," "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") that sometimes, like in the madcap caper "The Brothers Bloom," verge on showy overelaboration, of being too much.

But in the whodunit, too much is usually a good thing. Give us all the movie stars, plot twists and murder weapons you can find. When done well, there is almost nothing better. And "Knives Out," while it takes a little while to find its stride, sticks the landing, right up to its doozy of a last shot. The whodunit turns out not only to still have a few moves left but to be downright acrobatic.

The film begins like many before it: with a dead body that needs accounting for. Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer), a bestselling mystery writer, is found with his throat cut in a small upstairs room in his sprawling Victorian mansion. Production designer David Crank deserves much credit for the film's

fabulously ornate and much-paneled setting — a Clue board come to life and a home that could rival the modernist abode of "Parasite" for movie house of the year.

Thrombey is extremely wealthy with an expansive family of spoon-fed, entitled eccentrics that would likely mix well with the dynasty of HBO's "Succession." And as much intrigue as there is about Harlan's death, for his children there's even more about his inheritance. There's his relator daughter Linda (Jamie Lee Curtis) and her cheating husband Richard (Don Johnson), a vocal Trump supporter; his son Walt (a sweater-wearing Michael Shannon) who runs his father's publishing house; lifestyle guru daughter-in-law Joni (Toni Collette); and his playboy grandson Ransom (Chris Evans), the black sheep of the family.

There are others, too, most notably Harlan's trusted caregiver Marta (Ana de Armas). The Thrombeys casually refer to her as "the help" and, in a running gag, are all over the map when it comes to her native South American country. A deeper political dimension slowly takes shape as the family's cavalier indifference to Marta plays a role in the movie's unspooling mysteries. Juggling themes of class privilege, immigration and ethnocentrism, "Knives Out" is a whodunit for the Trump era.

Some mysteries first submerge themselves in set-up, the crime in question and the entrance of its central detective. Johnson is too restless for such an approach. He favors flashbacks, by the boat load, to go along with elaborate plot mechanics of reversals and perspective switcheroos. That gives "Knives Out" a somewhat clunky and imperfectly paced first act, something Johnson makes up for with the payoff of

his finale. But for a movie with so many fine actors having so much fun, we get surprisingly little of the Thrombeys as a whole.

Instead, our detective calls almost immediately. Enter Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig), a flamboyant Louisiana investigator of such renown that he's already been profiled in the New Yorker as "the last of the gentleman sleuths." Even with such immaculate set dressing all around him (the mystery writer's house is decorated throughout with murder weapons, including a throne of knives), Craig still manages to chew plenty of scenery with his heavily accented Southern-style Poirot. One calls him "Foghorn Leghorn," another "CSI: KFC." He's accompanied by another detective (an under-used Lakeith Stanfield) but he quickly makes Marta his sidekick; she has a useful aversion to lies, throwing up every time she tells one. There isn't much that isn't knowing in Johnson's dialogue. He delights in playing by the genre's rules and remaking them at once. There are winking references here to "Hamilton" and "Baby Driver," and "Knives Out" more than once risks being overwhelmed by self-satisfaction. But "Knives Out," in the end, believes earnestly in the whodunit, it just wants to turn it inside out. To say more about that would spoil the fun. But keep an eye here, and elsewhere, on de Armas. The "Blade Runner 2049" actress (soon to be seen in the next James Bond film, also with Craig) isn't the biggest star in a film awash with A-listers. But with neither cloak nor dagger, she seizes "Knives Out." It's hers.

"Knives Out," a Lionsgate release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for thematic content, some disturbing images and strong language. Running time: 126 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. □

New film explores legacy of Boston's Cocoanut Grove fire

By MARK PRATT

BOSTON (AP) — Even though Boston's Cocoanut Grove fire happened long before she was born, Michele Shapiro learned all about the disaster when she was a girl.

Her grandfather, Frank Shapiro, was at a nearby theater with his wife the night of Nov. 28, 1942, when a blaze tore through the swanky Cocoanut Grove nightclub, killing 492 people. The young lawyer helped with the rescue efforts and later represented the survivors and the estates of the victims.

"I grew up hearing about this case because it was such a big part of his life," Michele Shapiro said. When she heard a filmmaker was making a documentary about the disaster, she had to get involved.

The result is "Six Locked Doors: The Legacy of Cocoanut Grove," a nearly 70-minute film that features interviews with survivors in their 90s, many of whom never before talked publicly. The movie also includes archival footage, still photographs and an examination of the incompetence and corruption that allowed the conditions that led to the fire.

The film has been screened several times, but producer Shapiro and director-writer Zachary Graves-Miller are now trying to raise money to distribute the movie to a

wider audience to restore the disaster to public consciousness.

"We think it's a really, really important story to tell," said Shapiro, a Wayland, Massachusetts, native who now lives in New York. "This disaster was the basis for modern day fire codes, and not many people know that. Four hundred ninety-two people died, but their lives weren't lost in vain because it led to so many safety measures."

On the night of the fire, the Cocoanut Grove was packed with about 1,000 people, double its capacity. Exit doors were locked to stop patrons from skipping out on their bills.

The fire reportedly started when a teenage busboy lit a match to see a light socket and replace a burned-out bulb in an artificial palm tree. The tree caught fire, and the panicked crowd surged to the revolving exit doors, which quickly became jammed with stacked-up bodies.

Hundreds of people were trapped inside, killed by flames and toxic gases.

The documentary looks at the tragedy from a fresh perspective, said Stephanie Schorow, a journalist and author of the book "The Cocoanut Grove Fire." "This movie is the first attempt to really cover the victims of the fire, and it really focuses on the people hurt," said Schorow, who is



In this Nov. 28, 1942 file photo, firemen inspect the ruins of the Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, where 492 people died in a fire.

Associated Press

interviewed in the film.

The fire led to an overhaul and stricter enforcement of building safety codes across the nation.

It also led to advances in the treatment of burns and lung injuries, as well as legal precedents in punishing those responsible, said Casey Grant, executive director emeritus of the Fire Protection Research Foundation, a nonprofit based in Massachusetts. It also changed the way responses to large-scale disasters

are managed, he said.

"The impact of Cocoanut Grove was enormous," he said.

Nearly half of the 1,000 people who were in the building that night died, and about half the survivors were injured, Grant said. "You had a one-in-four chance of getting out of there unscathed," he said. One of the major safety legacies of the blaze is that revolving doors in public buildings are now always flanked by two outward-

swinging doors.

The movie is a crucial reminder for people to remain aware of fire protection and safety practices, even 77 years later.

"We are continually fighting complacency," Grant said, pointing to The Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, in 2003, and the Ghost Ship fire in Oakland, California, in 2016. "Films like this are hugely important to remind us about the lessons of history." □

'Queen & Slim' soundtrack a perfect mix of new and old songs

By MELANIE J. SIMS

The trailer for upcoming film "Queen & Slim" packs a ton—intensity and beauty, flashes of lightheartedness and the strain of heaviness, too. In similar fashion, "Queen & Slim: The Soundtrack" comes bearing plenty of the same, with 16 songs expertly capturing the journey of the film's lead characters as they go on the run following a traffic stop that ends in the shooting of a police officer. "Queen & Slim" director Melina Matsoukas—who has won Grammys for directing music videos for Beyoncé

and Rihanna—and Emmy-winning writer Lena Waithe executive produced the soundtrack, along with Motown Records President Ethiopia Habtemariam. Together they're like the perfect aux cord DJs. They hit play, and they don't miss, with a perfect mix of pleasantly surprising old favorites—from Bilal to Mike Jones to Roy Ayers—and fresh new material, too.

There's the high energy fun: Megan Thee Stallion's "Ride or Die," a New Orleans bounce-music track featuring VickeeLo, along with The-Dream's rock-



This cover image released by Motown Records shows the soundtrack for "Queen & Slim."

Associated Press

ing "Cedes Benz" and the dance-worthy "My Money, My Baby" from Nigerian artist Burna Boy.

Add to that mix a feel-good crop of mellow music: Syd's extra sexy "Getting Late," Moses Sumney's haunting "Doomed" and the sweet "Yo Love" from Vince Staples, 6lack and Mereba. The latter is an anthem perfectly suited for a Bonnie and Clyde love story.

Perhaps the crown jewel is a rare appearance from Ms. Lauryn Hill, whose new song "Guarding the Gates" is enough to bring a tear to her dearest fans' eyes. □

Celebrities are deep into liquor, wine with their own brands

By LEANNE ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) — From Kate Hudson's new vodka to Dylan Sprouse's Brooklyn-made mead, celebrities with their own brands of spirits and wines can make drink-loving fans happy at the holidays.

You can find other pillars of culture with bottles, including TV shows and the high-brow auction house Sotheby's. Whether your gift recipient is into Florida Georgia Line or Diane Keaton, there may be a bottle out there ready for you to buy and wrap up.

Some ideas:

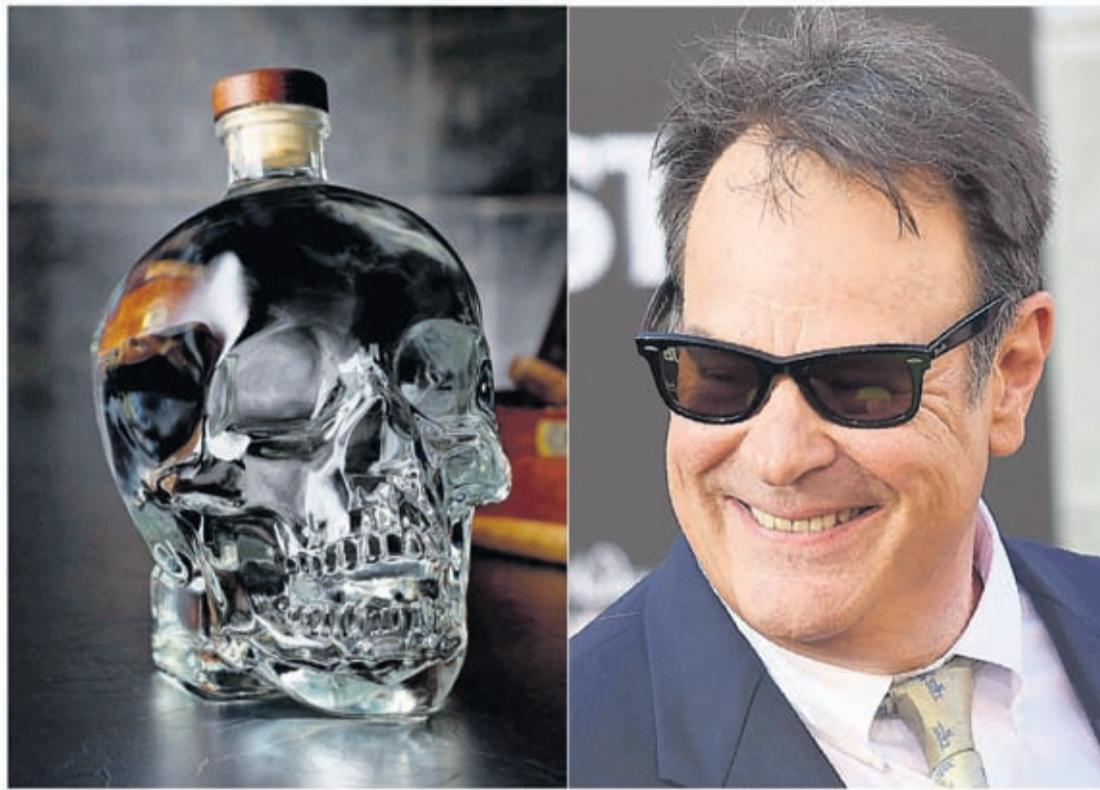
HUDSON: Her just-launched King St. Vodka is gluten-free, non-GMO and distilled in Santa Barbara, California. It's inspired by memories of her former home on King Street in New York City. At select retailers and online at kingstvodka.com. \$24.99.

SPROUSE: The former child star is co-founder of All-Wise Meadery. It uses an apiary in upstate New York. Mead, by the way, is a honey wine fermented with yeast and water. Among the company's flavor profiles is a variety infused with oolong tea. At select retailers and online at allwisemeadery.com. \$35.

KEATON: She has a collection of wines, The Keaton. All are sourced from the north coast of California. A percentage of proceeds supports the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. Widely available. \$14.49.

RYAN REYNOLDS: First, he tasted Aviation Gin, then he acquired a piece of the company. It's highly rated even by some wine aficionados. Wine Enthusiast called it a clean, neutral profile with "bewitching hints of caraway, juniper, grapefruit and a dry, faintly spicy finish." Widely available. \$30.99.

BRYAN CRANSTON, AARON PAUL: They debuted their artisanal Dos Hombres mezcal in twin Instagram posts last July, and fans thought they were getting the "Breaking Bad" band back together. It's made in a remote part of Oaxaca in



This combination photo shows actor and businessman Dan Aykroyd at the Los Angeles premiere of "Ghostbusters" on July 9, 2016, right, and a bottle of his Crystal Head Vodka. Celebrities are deep into the liquor and wine business with their own brands that are particularly gifty for drink-loving fans

Associated Press

Mexico. At select retailers and online at reservebar.com. \$65.

BRAD PITT AND ANGELINA JOLIE: Post-divorce, they still jointly own the Miraval estate and vineyard in France's Provence. In partnership with the Perrin family, Miraval is known for roses. Its Chateau Miraval Cotes de Provence Rose has an aroma of fresh fruit and spring flowers. \$27.99.

Chateau Miraval Studio is a pale pink with notes of fresh fruit and citrus fruit. \$18.99.

SOTHEBY'S: Sotheby's Wine, a branch of the famed auction house, has curated a collection of 12 bottles. Part of the mission was to provide good wine at reasonable prices, which range from \$16.95 to \$39.95. Available at the Sotheby's Wine retail store in Manhattan and online at

SothebysWine.com.

JAY-Z: He's a partner with Bacardi Limited in D'Usse cognac. D'Usse XO has notes of ripe blackberry and apricot and D'Usse VSOP includes hints of spices, almond and cinnamon. They're made at the Chateau de Cognac in France. Widely available. D'Usse XO goes for \$199 to \$229 and the VSOP for \$49.99 to \$54.99.



This combination photo shows Drake performing as part of the Summer Sixteen Tour in New York on Aug. 5, 2016, left, and his Virginia Black Decadent American Whiskey. Celebrities are deep into the liquor and wine business with their own brands that are particularly gifty for drink-loving fans.

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DRAKE: He created Virginia Black Decadent American Whiskey with spirits entrepreneur and sommelier Brent Hocking. It's a collection of bourbon rated highly by some in the industry. It sips with notes of oak and vanilla, finishing with a hint of toffee. Widely available. \$39.00.

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA: Call him the, uh, godfather of celebrity wine. The director bought his first California vineyard in 1995 and a second, the Francis Ford Coppola Winery, in 2009. Bottles from the latter include Diamond Collection Oregon Pinot Noir (\$21), with flavors of boysenberry, cherry and mocha, and Director's Cut Cinema (\$44), a blend of cabernet sauvignon, zinfandel, sirah and petite sirah. Shop around.

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE: The country music duo of Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley put out Old Camp. It's a smooth peach pecan whiskey with hints of caramel and a light spice, aged a minimum of two years in white American oak barrels. Widely available. \$19.99.

DOWNTON ABBEY: Highclere Castle, the face of the British TV drama and movie, just launched Highclere Castle Gin in the United States. It's inspired by botanicals from the estate's herb gardens originally planted in the 9th century. \$48.99. Available offline in 15 states and online at caskers.com.

MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY: He partnered with whiskey giant Wild Turkey on Longbranch, made in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. It's refined with Texas mesquite and oak charcoals, honoring his roots in Kentucky and Texas. The flavor offers notes of caramel, pear and citrus. Widely available. \$39.99.

CONOR McGREGOR: The MMA champion launched Proper No. Twelve Irish Whiskey last year. It expresses his love of all things Ireland. The whiskey has hints of vanilla and a honey-like sweetness. \$24.99. A portion of proceeds goes to first responder organizations. Shop around. □